

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are some loopholes in the existing laws to tackle challenges that Cyber Space and Cyber Crime poses;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is considering changes in the law to ensure stringent actions against cyber crimes targeting women;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is exploring ways to bridge the gap between existing provisions of the IPC and the IT Act to deal with cyber crime against women; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

(a) to (e): In line with the technological advancement of the Internet technologies, new types of cyber crimes are also evolving. The Information Technology Act, 2000 together with Indian Penal Code 1860 provides legal provisions to deal with prevailing cyber crimes including cyber crime against women. It provides punishment in the form of imprisonment ranging from two years to life imprisonment and fine / penalty depending on the type of cyber crime.

Further, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.K. Vishwanathan, Former Law Secretary to examine the existing domestic and International Cyber Laws and suggest measures/amendments and recommend effective legal framework/ Guidelines to tackle the cybercrime. The Committee has submitted its interim report in September 2017. The Government is working on the recommendations made by the Committee.

In addition, MHA is implementing the 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)' scheme from NIRBHAYA funds of the Ministry of Women & Child Development in the period 2017-2020, which *inter alia*, aims at setting up an online cyber-crime reporting platform, cyber forensic training cum laboratories in States/UTs, R&D facilities and capacity building in law enforcement against cyber-crime. The main objective of the scheme is to facilitate handling of issues related to cyber-crime against women and children.
