

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4307
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.03.2018

CYBER CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN

4307. SHRI KESINENI NANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to bring a legislation to ban children under age of 13 from joining social media like its being done in UK;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the number of cases of cyber crimes related to children below the age of 18 registered in the last three years in the country and in Andhra Pradesh specifically.

ANSWER

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

(a): No, Sir.

(b) and (c): Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. Cyberspace has distinct and unique characteristics as compared to physical space. With widespread proliferation of new technologies like social media and mobile apps, etc. there are some negative elements who are misusing these technologies for committing cyber crimes. Such behavior is facilitated by virtual and borderless nature of cyber space, where anyone can open an account in any name including fake name from any part of the world at any time. Most social networking sites do not do background information check and have their servers abroad.

However, Government has adequate institutional mechanism under the Information Technology Act (IT Act), 2000, Indian Penal Code (IPC), Indecent Women Representation Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) etc. to bring culprits under book. It is technically challenging to detect and prevent uploading of misinformation and malicious content proactively. Government takes action as and when any objectionable content is brought to its knowledge.

As per information provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of 5, 8 and 17 cases were registered during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively under section 67B of IT Act, 2000 pertaining to publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form. No case was registered during these years in the state of Andhra Pradesh under section 67B of IT Act, 2000.

Further, a total of 40, 94 and 48 cases were registered during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively under section 14 (using child for pornographic purposes) & section 15 (storage of pornographic material involving child) of POCSO Act, 2012.
