

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *138
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 19.12.2018

ADVISORY TO INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

***138. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:**

Will the minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to issue an advisory to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for blocking and filtering objectionable images, texts and videos of children in an attempt to protect children from sexual abuse online and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated a long-term policy to deal with online child sexual abuse and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government plans to undertake any programmes or campaigns on cyber bullying and to spread awareness as to how children should safely use / navigate the internet and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*138
FOR 19.12.2018 REGARDING ADVISORY TO INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS**

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(a) and (b): Government has taken the following of steps to be implemented by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to protect children from sexual abuse online.

- (i) Government blocks the websites containing extreme Child sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) based on INTERPOL's "Worst-of-list" shared periodically by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is the National Nodal Agency for INTERPOL. The list is shared with Department of Telecommunications (DoT), who then directs major ISPs to block such websites.
- (ii) Government has ordered major ISPs in India to adopt and disable/remove the online CSAM dynamically based on Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), UK list.
- (iii) Department of Telecom, Government of India has requested all ISPs to make suitable arrangement to spread awareness among their subscribers, through emails, invoices, SMSs, websites, etc., about the use of Parental Control filters in the end-user machines/devices .
- (iv) Further, the Government has launched a portal namely www.cybercrime.gov.in to report CSAM or molestation, Rape/Gang-Rape (RGR) or obscene contents on internet. ISPs are asked to remove any valid CSAM/RGR/Obscene contents reported on this portal.

(c): The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has adequate provisions to deal with prevailing cyber crimes. Further, sections 354A and 354D of Indian Penal Code provide punishment for cyber bullying and cyber stalking against women. Further

- (i) Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory on 4.1.2012 on "Preventing & combating Cyber Crime against Women and Children", wherein States/Union Territories have been advised to specifically combat the crimes in forms of cyber stalking, cyber bullying, child pornography and exposure to sexually explicit material etc.
- (ii) The Government is implementing a major programme on Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA). A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) has also been set up.
- (iii) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued a circular on 18.08.2017 to all schools on safe and effective use of Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools and School buses.
- (iv) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a portal www.cybercrime.gov.in for public to report complaints of child pornography and sexually explicit content. MHA has also released a booklet: "A Handbook for Adolescents/Students on Cyber Security" to create awareness among citizens especially students / children about various cyber threats that can impact the children and ways to safeguard themselves against cyber crimes. The copy of the booklet is available in the following link:
https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/CyberSafety_English_Web_03122018.pdf.
