

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2438
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 26.12.2018

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY STUDENTS

2438. SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether UNICEF India has come out with a child online protection in India report, which offers a glimpse into the risks and threats children face when they use the internet and social media and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the UNICEF report states that despite there being about 400 million internet users in the country, a majority of which are the youth, there are no reliable figures on the extent, patterns and trends of child online abuse and exploitation because no comprehensive survey has been carried out, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that around 43 percent of children active on social media claimed to have witnessed cruel behavior on social networks, while 52 per cent indicated that they had themselves bullied people over social media and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. UNICEF has published a report in 2016 on Child Online Protection in India mentioning these issues.

Government has taken various steps to spread awareness among the users of cyberspace including children which, *inter alia*, include:

- (i) Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for certain due diligence to be followed by Intermediaries which includes social media.. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act, *inter alia*, specifies that the intermediaries shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is **grossly harmful, harms minor in any way**; violates any law for the time being in force; etc.
- (ii) Government issued Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies to all CBSE schools vide circular dated. 18.08.2017.
- (iii) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has initiated Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project for capacity building in the area of cyber security. ISEA Project Phase II was approved in the year 2014 with an objective of capacity building in the area of Information Security, training of Government personnel and creation of mass Information Security awareness targeted towards various user segments.
- (iv) Government has initiated mass cyber security awareness project. One such project has been implemented in North-eastern states of Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim targeted towards creating awareness among youth and public including School / College students.

- (v) Ministry of Home Affairs has created a Twitter Handle “Cyber Dost” to spread awareness on cyber safety and cyber security. MHA has also published a Handbook for Adolescents/Students on Cyber Safety.
- (vi) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) issued advisories on “Blue Whale Challenge Game” as well as “Momo Challenge Game”. Minister of Women and Child Development, wrote to all the schools in India warning them about such games and to take immediate steps within the schools to prevent students from falling prey to these. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) also wrote to all the institutions affiliated to CBSE detailing the precautions to be taken on an online game.
