

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN STARRED QUESTION NO. 4121**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2019

**ONLINE CHILD GROOMING**

4121. SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether online grooming of children to build an emotional connection with a child to gain her/his trust for sexual or trafficking purposes has been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether an UNICEF report highlighted the inefficacy of Indian laws to protect children from online abuse including grooming; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) to (d): No such study report has come to the notice of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to establish the same. However, in the wake of such purported instances through media recently impacting young children, Ministry took up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology at the level of Minister and Secretary to take necessary interventions to curb the menace and to ensure the safety and security of children. In order to equip children in negotiating the online world with adequate safety, Ministry of Human Resource Development was requested to issue necessary directions to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for incorporating suitable content pertaining to cyber safety in the school curriculum of children and advise State Governments to do the same through their School Boards. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, contains effective provisions to curb the menace of child abuse. The Act provides mandatory reporting, child friendly provisions of recording of statement and evidence and speedy trial of the cases. There are adequate legal penal provisions including POCSO Act, 2012 for the sexual offences against the children, as per the gravity of offences.

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