

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*158**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2019/ ASHADHA 11, 1941 (SAKA)**

**HARASSMENT OF WOMEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**\*158. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether cases of sexual harassment and blackmailing of women after befriending them on social media are increasing in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year;**
- (c) whether the police/authorities are not able to tackle such cases properly due to weak cyber laws in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring stringent cyber laws to tackle such problems effectively; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*158  
FOR 02.07.2019**

**(a) & (b): “Police” and “Public Order” are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. States/UTs are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes through their law enforcement machinery. The law enforcement agencies take legal action as per provisions of law against persons involved in misuse of social media for sexual harassment and blackmailing of women.**

**Specific data regarding cases of sexual harassment and blackmailing of women after befriending them on social media is not centrally maintained.**

**(c), (d) & (e): Safety and security of women in the country has been accorded utmost priority by the Government. Following legal provisions are available to deal with cases of sexual harassment and blackmailing of women:**

**(i) Indian Penal Code, 1860 has stringent provisions regarding criminal intimidation (section 503), Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty (section 354), Extortion (section 383, 384), Rape (section 375, 376), Gang rape (section 376D), etc.**

**(ii) Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 (21 of 2000) has provisions regarding cheating by personation (section 66D), violation of privacy (section 66E), publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic**

**form (section 67), publishing or transmitting material containing sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form (section 67A), publishing or transmitting material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form (section 67B) etc.**

**(iii) Rule 3 (2) (b) of Information Technology (Intermediaries guidelines)**

**Rules, 2011 provides for an obligation for Intermediaries (Social media platforms) to inform users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is grossly harmful, harassing, blasphemous defamatory, obscene, pornographic, pedophilic, libelous, invasive of another's privacy, etc.**

**(iv) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 provides stringent penal**

**provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months each.**

**Central Government has taken following additional measures to strengthen women safety, specifically in the context of misuse of cyberspace:**

**(i) An online analytic tool for police called "Investigation Tracking System**

**for Sexual Offences" has been launched to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018.**

- (ii) “National Database on Sexual Offenders” (NDSO) has been launched to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies. NDSO has data of over 5 lakh sexual offenders.**
- (iii) A scheme namely Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) has been approved under which an online cybercrime reporting portal ([www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)) has been launched to enable public to report complaints pertaining to Child Pornography / Child Sexual Abuse Material, Rape/Gang rape imageries or sexually explicit content. Steps have also been taken to spread awareness, issue of alerts/advisories, training of law enforcement agencies, improving cyber forensics facilities, etc. These steps help to prevent such cases and speed up investigation.**
- (iv) Awareness generation programmes and publicity campaigns are done on various laws relating to women and their rights through workshops, cultural programmes, seminars, training programmes, advertisements in print and electronic media etc.**
- (v) A handbook on Cyber Safety for Adolescents/ Students has been released (Copy available on [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) and [www.mha.gov.in](http://www.mha.gov.in)) and sent to all States/ Union Territories for wide circulation.**
- (vi) Cyber Crime awareness campaign has been launched through twitter handle (@CyberDost) and radio across the country.**