GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1215
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.06.2019

ONLINE ABUSE AND TROLLING OF WOMEN

1215.   SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
         SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

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

(a)   whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up any agency to take action against online trolls who torment and abuse women on social media without compromising the freedom of expression on internet;
(b)   whether there has been a delay in initiating action in many cases despite various instances of hate crimes and violence against women;
(c)   the plan of Government to resolve such cases on urgent basis;
(d)   whether the Government is planning to set up any agency or a separate department to crackdown on criminals to protect women from being trolled on media and social media sites; and
(e)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a)   to (e): "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of citizens rests primarily with the respective State Government/ Union Territory and they are competent to deal with the cases of misuse of social media that commit cyber crimes. Ministry of Home Affairs has implemented a scheme namely 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)' under which an online Cyber Crime reporting portal, (www.cybercrime.gov.in) has been launched in September, 2018 to enable public to report complaints pertaining to Child Pornography/ Child Sexual Abuse Material, rape/gang rape imageries or sexually explicit content. The portal facilitates the State/ UTs to view complaints of Cyber Crime online and take appropriate action. Steps have also been taken to spread awareness, issue of alerts/advisories, training of law enforcement agencies, improving cyber forensic facilities etc. These steps help to prevent such cases and speed up investigation.

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