

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2731
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2021

HARASSMENT OF WOMEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

2731. SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:

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

- (a) the precautionary steps taken by the Government in view of increasing number of cases of harassment of women on social media;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government for strengthening the cyber cell;
- (c) the number of accused persons against whom Government has taken action taking suo-motu cognizance for propagating obscenity on social media, State-wise;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to make the consumer aware about cyber crimes and to prevent the same; and
- (e) whether any monitoring mechanism has been developed by the Government to stop obscenity on social media so that action can be taken thereon within prescribed time limit and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) to (e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. States/Union Territories (UT) are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes including cyber crime through their law enforcement machinery. The Law Enforcement Agencies take legal action as per provisions of law against the criminals misusing the social media.

State-wise data for cybercrime against women as maintained and reported by National Crimes Record bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs is at Annexure.

Government has taken the following steps to tackle cyber crime against women and children:

- (1) The Information Technology Act, 2000 has provisions to deal with cyber crime against women and children. Sections 66E, 67, and 67A of the Act provides for the punishment and fine for breach of bodily privacy, publishing or transmitting of obscene/sexually-explicit material in electronic form. Further, section 354A & 354D of Indian Penal Code provide punishment for cyber bullying and cyber stalking.
- (2) The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, notified under the IT Act, 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, *inter alia*, obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, harmful to children in any way or violates any law for the time being in force, etc. The Rules provide for a robust grievance redressal mechanism as also reporting and expeditious removal of content breaching bodily privacy, sexually explicit or morphed imagery of the individual concerned.
- (3) MeitY through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users including women, children, parents, etc. highlighting the importance of cyber safety & security.
- (4) An exclusive handbook namely 'Information Security Awareness handbook for Women', 'Cyber Security tips for Women' and 'Online Safety tips for Women@Home during COVID 19' have been designed. The awareness content designed/developed exclusively for women have been made available for download on the [website](https://www.infosecawareness.in/women)

- (5) The Ministry of Home Affairs is implementing a Scheme namely, Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC) Scheme.
- (6) A National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) developed and operated by MHA provides for reporting of all cyber crimes and particularly the online content pertaining to Child Pornography/Child Sexual Abuse Material or sexually explicit content such as Rape/Gang Rape content.
- (7) National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has been notified as an agency of Government of India to issue notices to intermediaries under section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act for removal of Child Pornography (CP), Rape & Gang Rape (RGR) content
- (8) Further, to strengthen the mechanism to deal with cyber crimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the Central Government has taken steps for spreading awareness about cyber crimes; issuance of alerts/advisories; capacity building/training of law enforcement personnel/prosecutors/ judicial officers; improving cyber forensic facilities, etc.

Annexure

State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Cyber Crimes against Women during 2017-2019

SL	State/UT	2017						2018						2019					
		CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	Andhra Pradesh	173	39	0	64	36	0	217	90	2	107	121	2	356	76	10	109	100	10
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0
3	Assam	379	78	0	450	343	0	670	63	0	552	69	0	703	112	0	495	114	0
4	Bihar	36	13	0	37	13	0	14	7	0	7	7	0	60	3	0	4	4	0
5	Chhattisgarh	89	52	9	66	65	9	64	57	2	68	67	2	85	56	8	73	69	9
6	Goa	9	0	0	0	0	0	21	1	0	3	1	0	5	15	0	0	16	0
7	Gujarat	94	59	0	83	87	0	184	113	0	154	154	0	226	189	0	269	263	0
8	Haryana	79	33	1	56	47	1	112	54	0	79	72	0	251	95	4	130	115	5
9	Himachal Pradesh	30	4	0	14	5	0	52	18	0	17	19	0	47	16	0	42	19	0
10	Jammu & Kashmir	13	1	0	4	1	0	23	6	0	9	9	0	14	5	0	6	6	0
11	Jharkhand	26	12	0	12	12	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	43	11	0	5	12	0
12	Karnataka	729	25	0	62	30	0	1374	31	0	70	41	0	2698	32	0	72	46	0
13	Kerala	126	57	0	88	67	0	160	77	1	123	97	1	139	61	0	106	81	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	192	159	3	215	131	3	276	184	3	237	239	5	301	331	4	387	395	5
15	Maharashtra	1119	280	9	525	326	9	1262	461	6	821	589	7	1503	517	5	756	652	19
16	Manipur	27	0	0	22	0	0	9	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
17	Meghalaya	6	1	0	1	1	0	32	0	0	1	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	4	3	0	4	3	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
20	Odisha	62	9	0	9	9	0	228	88	0	107	106	0	437	118	0	205	220	0
21	Punjab	61	16	1	51	18	1	97	30	1	100	34	1	87	31	1	84	42	1
22	Rajasthan	89	30	0	57	57	0	116	39	0	47	47	0	188	80	3	104	111	3
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	53	20	0	27	20	0	77	38	2	85	57	2	124	30	1	93	36	1
25	Telangana	196	70	0	120	80	0	336	76	0	183	128	0	288	340	1	140	362	1
26	Tripura	1	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	265	95	5	171	142	6	340	183	4	331	260	6	518	312	12	454	405	14
28	Uttarakhand	30	27	0	28	30	0	78	29	2	31	34	3	28	11	0	10	11	0
29	West Bengal	270	51	0	61	48	0	170	95	0	106	96	0	170	95	0	106	96	0
	TOTAL STATE(S)	4158	1134	28	2229	1571	29	5938	1742	23	3246	2249	29	8306	2538	49	3654	3177	68
30	A&N Islands	2	1	0	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
31	Chandigarh	5	3	0	3	4	0	5	4	1	4	4	1	13	1	2	7	1	2
32	D&N Haveli	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
34	Delhi	76	20	2	38	23	2	79	15	0	72	17	0	56	12	0	32	17	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	84	25	2	43	29	2	92	19	1	78	21	1	73	13	2	40	18	2
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	4242	1159	30	2272	1600	31	6030	1761	24	3324	2270	30	8379	2551	51	3694	3195	70

Source: Crime in India

Note : Due to non-receipt of data from West Bengal in time for 2019, Data furnished for 2018 has been used

