

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3752
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2022

CYBER-CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN

3752. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures to make online space safe for children keeping in view the fact that cyber crime against children rose to 400 percent compared to 2019 as per the NCRB report 2020;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including guidelines issued to the internet companies if any, for making the internet a safe place for children; and
- (c) If not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As per the information received from National Crime Records Bureau State/UT-wise Cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CCS), Cases Convicted (CON), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Chargesheeted (PCS) and Persons Convicted (PCV) under Total Cyber Crimes against Children in 2019 and 2020 is at Annexure-I.

To strengthen the mechanism to deal with cyber crimes including crimes against children in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the Central Government has taken measures in consultation with various stakeholders which, inter-alia, include the following:

i.) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 enacted by Govt of India provides safeguards for children against sexual abuse. The Act was amended in 2019 to introduce more stringent punishment to deter the perpetrators & prevent such crimes against children. Section-14 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (POCSO) Act provides Punishment for using child for pornographic purposes which was also amended in 2019. As per section-14:

(1) Whoever uses a child or children for pornographic purposes shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years and shall also be liable to fine, and in the event of second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years and also be liable to fine.

(2) Whoever using a child or children for pornographic purposes under sub-section (1), commits an offence referred to in section 3 or section 5 or section 7 or section 9 by directly participating in such pornographic acts, shall be punished for the said offences also under section 4, section 6, section 8 and section 10, respectively, in addition to the punishment provided in sub-section (1)."

ii.) Section 67B of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides stringent punishment for publishing, transmitting or viewing child sexual abuse material online.

iii.) The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 empower the users of Intermediaries and makes the social media platforms accountable for their safety. The Rules require the intermediaries to adopt a robust grievance redressal mechanism including time-bound disposal of grievances. The Intermediaries need to convey their terms and conditions which must include communication to users not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is inter-alia harmful, defamatory, obscene, invasive of another's privacy, harm minors in any way or are otherwise unlawful. Intermediaries are also expected to remove any information violative of any law in India as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by an appropriate government or its authorised agency. The Rules also require Significant Social Media Intermediary (SSMI) to endeavour to deploy technology based measures to proactively identify child sexual abuse material.

iv.) Government periodically blocks the websites containing extreme child sexual abuse material (CSAM) based on INTERPOL's "worst of list" received through Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the national nodal agency for Interpol in India.

v.) Government has issued an order to concerned Internet Service Providers (ISPs) ordering them to implement Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), UK or Project Arachnid, Canada list of CSAM websites/webpages on a dynamic basis and block access to such child pornography webpages/websites.

vi.) MeitY through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users including women and children highlighting the importance of digital safety while using Internet. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) provides relevant awareness material.

vii.) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights also organized different awareness generation programmes on various aspects of Child sexual abuse and POCSO Act.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (A) TO (C) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3752 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2022 ASKED BY SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI STATE/UT-WISE CASES REGISTERED (CR), CASES CHARGESHEETED (CCS), CASES CONVICTED (CON), PERSONS ARRESTED (PAR), PERSONS CHARGESHEETED (PCS) AND PERSONS CONVICTED (PCV) UNDER TOTAL CYBER CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN IN 2019 AND 2020

SL	State/UT	2019						2020					
		CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	Andhra Pradesh	9	5	0	10	6	0	52	5	0	22	6	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	7	2	0	6	3	0	45	6	0	6	10	0
4	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	5	5	0	4	5	0	21	17	1	25	25	1
6	Goa	1	2	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
7	Gujarat	7	5	0	5	5	0	32	32	0	63	63	0
8	Haryana	5	3	0	13	11	0	33	19	0	24	23	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	9	2	0	2	2	0	19	5	0	9	6	0
10	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	2	3	0
11	Karnataka	10	1	0	3	1	0	144	12	0	34	12	0
12	Kerala	30	12	0	28	18	0	126	35	0	121	36	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	20	20	0	37	34	0	39	33	0	55	58	0
14	Maharashtra	70	56	2	82	81	2	207	65	0	101	78	0
15	Manipur	1	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	5	1	0	8	1	0	71	47	0	84	84	0
20	Punjab	1	2	0	2	2	0	10	9	0	9	9	0
21	Rajasthan	9	8	1	13	13	3	24	16	0	22	22	0
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	5	2	0	3	3	0	35	5	0	15	5	0
24	Telangana	3	1	0	5	1	0	9	0	0	8	0	0
25	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	98	90	1	113	109	1	197	121	0	50	181	0
27	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	0	4	4	0
28	West Bengal	6	4	0	3	7	0	6	1	0	3	1	0
	TOTAL STATE(S)	303	221	4	344	304	6	1092	435	1	658	626	1
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Delhi	3	2	0	5	5	0	5	2	0	2	2	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
34	Ladakh	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	3	2	0	5	5	0	10	4	0	2	4	0
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	306	223	4	349	309	6	1102	439	1	660	630	1