GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5586
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022

ONLINE HARRASSMENT OF WOMEN

5586. SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware about the web based apps which are targeting women by posting their morphed images and objectionable comments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) to (c):The Government is committed to ensure that the Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable for all users. As internet expands and delivers many benefits for citizens, the Government is also aware of growing phenomena of users harms caused by misuse of some social media /intermediaries platforms by some users which also includes crimes against women and children caused as a consequence.

Two such Apps with derogatory and malafide intentions against women, which came to the notice of Government, were hosted on an open-source platform namely "GitHub". Both the Apps allegedly picked up the profiles of the women from social media platforms, and Twitter was used to promote the alleged content.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The Law Enforcement Agencies take legal action as per provisions of applicable law. In the instant case, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) coordinated with service providers and provided technical information to law enforcement agency to facilitate investigation.

As per the information available from Ministry of Home Affairs, the Delhi Police and Mumbai Police have registered FIRs in the said matter under IPC 1860 and the Information Technology Act, 2000 and have arrested the accused.

****