

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2022

COMMITTEES ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

1480. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government has constituted several committees in the past to suggest a framework to keep a watch on social media;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of recommendations of the committees;

(c) the details of action taken for minimising the cases of obscene postings and outraging the modesty of women; and

(d) the details and the number of social media groups that have complied with the rules and appointed nodal officers for addressing the complaints?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) & (b): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has informed that it regularly interacts with concerned stakeholders, and has also held several public consultations to make social media platforms safer and more accountable to the citizens and also ensure transparency in their services to the users.

(c) :The Government has in place institutional mechanisms to deal with cyber crimes against women which inter-alia, include the following :-

(i) Sections 66E, 67, and 67A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provide for the punishment and fine for violation of bodily privacy and publishing or transmitting of obscene/sexually-explicit material in electronic form.

(ii) Part-II of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules 2021) inter-alia provides for users' safety, removal of obscene, pornographic content, deployment of technological measures by certain intermediaries to proactively identify content on child abuse, a robust grievance redressal mechanism etc.

(iii) Part III of IT Rules 2021 inter alia requires the publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms) to adhere to a code of ethics which provides for self-classification of content into age based categories as per guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules, which takes into account concerns like language, nudity, sex, violence etc.

(iv) 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.

(d): All online intermediaries rendering services in India, publishers of news and current affairs and publishers of online curated content on digital media come under the purview of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and the Rules made thereunder.
