

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 524
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.02.2020

USE OF INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION LIST

524. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has approached Government flagging operational issues in implementing a directive that mandates use of an Internet Watch Foundation List for blocking online child sexual abuse content;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that such sites should be barred as per the Interpol list provided by Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) : Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has approached Government citing financial reasons as a constraint to implement Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) list. IWF provides the list of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) websites/URLs on a daily basis directly to Internet Service providers (ISPs) at cost.

(c) and (d): Government is already blocking Interpol's "Worst of List" relating to extreme CSAM. Such a list is being shared by CBI, the National Nodal Agency of Interpol in India, to Department of Telecom (DoT) on a regular basis since the last three years. DoT shares this list with major ISPs capable of controlling incoming traffic at country level. However, Interpol's list has its limitations as it is not frequently updated, and is shared only on a monthly basis. Government, therefore, mandated implementation of IWF list of CSAM as an additional measure vide its order dated 17.04.2017, to curb availability of such contents. IWF, UK is worldwide reputed organization in this field and shares their daily updated list directly with ISPs.
