

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2498**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2018

**BAN ON PORNOGRAPHY SITES**

**2498. SHRI AMAR SINGH:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that a large number of people have become addict of watching pornography over the internet;
- (b) whether it is a fact that millions of people in our country access porn on their smart phones by inserting necessary chips containing racy videos which are easily available at low price; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government proposes to impose ban on pornography sites, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

(a) and (b): The cyber world is anonymous and universally available. With widespread usage of Internet and proliferation of smart-phone, vast amount of information/data is available for entertainment, information sharing, education programmes, communication, etc. However, the same can also be misused by people to watch obscene content available on Internet.

(c): The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 together with the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 provides legal framework for dealing with online obscene material including child sexual abuse. Sections 67, 67A and 67B of the IT Act provide punishment and fine for publishing or transmission of obscene material in electronic form.

Further, Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 provides for certain due diligence to be followed by Intermediaries failing which they would be liable. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act, inter alia, 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 grossly harmful, harms minor in any way; violates any law for the time being in force, etc.

In addition, Government has taken the following steps to Curb Child Pornography/Online Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM):

- (i) Government periodically blocks the websites containing extreme Child sexual abuse material based on INTERPOL's "worst of list" received through Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is the national nodal agency for Interpol in India.

Department of Telecom (DoT) periodically instructs blocking of such websites. As on date a total of 4934 websites have been ordered for blocking through Internet Service providers (ISPs).

- (ii) The government has issued an order to concerned ISPs to adopt Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) list of CSAM websites/webpages and block access to child pornography webpages/ websites at gateway level. This list is dynamic and is updated everyday.
- (iii) DoT has communicated to all ISPs requesting them to make suitable arrangement to spread awareness among their subscribers about the use of Parental Control filters in the end-user machines through messages of email, invoices, SMS, website, etc.
- (iv) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is implementing a comprehensive central sector scheme, namely "Centre for Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)" to handle all issues related to check cyber-crime against women and children including child pornography.
- (v) POCSO E-box portal by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was opened for reporting of cyber crime targeting children. NCPCR has now enhanced the scope of POCSO E-box to also handle cyber bullying, cyber stalking, morphing of images and child pornography. The E-Box is also available as Mobile app at Google/Apple Play Store.
- (vi) Further Honourable Supreme court is already hearing a petition on banning/curbing of Pornography on Internet in India.

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