

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5715
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022

CYBER HARRASSMENT OF WOMEN

5715. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the increasing instances of cyber harassment and impersonation of women on social media;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of cases and actions taken on culprits from 2019 to 2021;
- (c) whether the Government has developed a portal/ helpline where women can register their complaints against cyber harassment and impersonation and if so, the details of the cases reported between 2019 and 2021;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to popularize the said portal; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Government is committed to Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable internet. 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. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication "Crime in India". As per the data published by the NCRB, details of cases registered under the head cyber crimes against women (involving communication devices as medium/target) for the years 2019 and 2020 are 8415 and 10,405 respectively. The latest published report is for the year 2020.

"Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The States/UTs are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes through their law enforcement agencies. The law enforcement agencies take legal action as per the provisions of law against persons involved in misuse of social media for impersonation of women and cyber harassment.

(c) to (e): In order to make Internet Safe, Trusted and Accountable, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) operates a National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) to enable citizens to report complaints pertaining to all types of cyber crimes with special focus on cyber crimes against women and children since 30.08.2019.

Cyber crime incidents reported on this portal are routed automatically to the respective State/UT law enforcement agency for further handling as per the provisions of law. A Toll-free Helpline number "1930" has been operationalized to get assistance in lodging online cyber complaints. As per the data maintained, since its inception, 9,04,061 cyber crime incidents have been registered upto 28.02.2022 on the portal. However, specific data regarding cases of "cyber harassment and impersonation of women on social media" is not maintained separately on the portal.

To spread awareness about the Portal and Toll-free Helpline number, the Government has taken several steps that inter-alia includes dissemination of messages through SMS, I4C social media account, i.e., Twitter handle (@Cyberdost), Facebook (CyberDostI4C), Instagram (cyberdosti4c), Telegram (cyberdosti4c), Radio campaign, engaged MyGov for publicity through multiple media, organizing Cyber Safety and Security Awareness Weeks in association with States/UTs, etc.
