

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2333**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022

**REGULATION OF ADULT AND PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT**

**2333. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:**

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

- (a) the details of the present stand of Government with regard to adult movies and pornographic content;
- (b) the details of appropriate restrictions imposed/measures taken to regulate such subject matter;
- (c) whether there is a decline in the internet traffic, leading to pornographic websites in the country and if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken/being taken by Government to curtail the same during the last three years?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): Government is committed to have an Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable internet for the citizens of India.

The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, has provisions to deal with online pornography. Publishing or transmitting any material in electronic form which is sexually explicit or lascivious or appeals to the prurient interest or if its effect is such as to tend to deprave and corrupt persons is a punishable crime. In addition, viewing of material depicting children in sexually explicit act is also a crime as per the IT Act.

To ensure a good and healthy entertainment in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952 and the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules 1983, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), a Statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulates the public exhibition of films including adult films. According to the guidelines issued by them, films which are considered unsuitable for exhibition to non-adults shall be certified for exhibition to adult audiences only.

Further for online publishers of curated content, The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules 2021) prescribe the code of ethics. This code requires the publishers to classify content in specified age-appropriate categories, restrict access of age-inappropriate content by children, and implement an age verification mechanism for content classified as 'Adult'.

To strengthen the mechanism to deal with such cyber crimes including adult content and pornography in a coordinated manner, the Government has taken several measures in consultation with various stakeholders which, *inter-alia*, include the following:

- (i) Rule 3(2)(b) of the IT Rules, 2021 provides that on a complaint by an individual or authorised representative, intermediary shall, within 24 hours, remove any content which prima facie exposes the private area of such individual, shows such individual in full or partial nudity or shows or depicts such individual in any sexual act or conduct, or is in the nature of impersonation in an electronic form, including artificially morphed images of such individual.
- (ii) Government has been periodically blocking, since 2016, the websites containing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) based on INTERPOL's "worst of" list received through Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the national nodal agency for Interpol in India.
- (iii) Government has issued an order to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) ordering them to implement Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), UK or Project Arachnid, Canada list of CSAM websites/webpages on a dynamic basis and block access to such webpages/websites.
- (iv) A MoU has been signed between the National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA regarding sharing of Tipline reports on online child explicit material and child sexual exploitation contents from NCMEC. The Tip lines, as received from NCMEC, are being shared with States/UTs online through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal for taking further action.
- (v) In 2018, Government directed Internet Service Providers (ISP) to block 827 websites that hosted pornographic content following an order by the Uttarakhand High Court.
- (c) and (d): No such information is available with this Ministry.

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