

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 883
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 09.02.2018

SOFTWARE TO IDENTIFY AND CHECK ONLINE CRIMINAL WEBSITES

883. SHRI. RIPUN BORA:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to ban and /or develop software to identify and thus check online criminal websites for viewing in the country;
- (a) if so, the proposal details thereof;
- (b) whether Government also proposes to make consortium with web-tech giants to access such obscene contents; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for blocking/removal of objectionable online content. Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any Computer Resource in the interest of Sovereignty and Integrity of India, Defence of India, Security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. Government takes action under this section for blocking of web-sites/specific web-pages with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders for blocking of web-sites and web-pages.

Further, Section 79 of the Act provides that intermediaries are required to disable/remove unlawful content on being notified by appropriate government or its agency. Further, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, hateful, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

Law Enforcement Agencies regularly monitor the social media sites and take action under existing legal provisions for removal of malicious contents/materials and prosecuting the offenders.

Government also regularly interacts with representatives of social media sites to curb objectionable content appearing on their platform.
