

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2658**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.01.2019

**CURB ON DISSEMINATION OF OBJECTIONABLE VIDEOS AND CONTENTS**

**2658.      SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:**  
**SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:**  
**CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Ministry to prevent dissemination of objectionable videos and contents to the public through the mediums of communication via internet;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to gauge the extent of objectionable contents reaching the public through the mediums of communication via internet and its ill-effects; and
- (c) the details of policy to put a curb on the objectionable contents?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) and (b): There had been media reports pointing to studies highlighting extent of objectionable contents reaching the public through the mediums of communication via internet and its ill-effects. However, Government has not conducted any specific study to access to gauge the extent of objectionable content reaching the public through the mediums of communication via internet and its ill-effects.

(c): Government has taken several steps to prevent dissemination of objectionable content. These, *inter alia*, include:

- The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. Section 69A of the IT Act 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 or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.
- Further, Section 79 of the IT Act provides that intermediaries are required to disable/remove unlawful content on being notified by appropriate government or its agency. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under this section require 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, affect minors and unlawful in any way.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) took note of media reports about spread of fake news, misinformation/disinformation on Internet particularly using WhatsApp platform and issued a notice to WhatsApp on 3.7.2018. In their response, WhatsApp conveyed a number of steps taken by them to address the issue of fake news propagated using their platform.
- Ministry of Home affairs (MHA) has issued a number of advisories which includes advisory on untoward incidents in the name of protection of cows dated 09.08.2016, advisory on cyber crime prevention and control dated 13.01.2018 and also an advisory on incidents of lynching by mobs in some States fuelled by rumours of lifting/kidnapping of children dated 04.07.2018.

- MeitY and MHA as well as Police are in regular touch with various social media platforms to effectively address the issue of removal of objectionable content.
- MeitY through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using Internet and advice not to share rumours/fake news. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) has also been set up.
- MHA has created a Twitter Handle “Cyber Dost” to spread awareness on cyber safety and cyber security. MHA has also published a Handbook for Adolescents/Students on Cyber Safety.

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