

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION 408
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2022

WEB BASED APPS TARGETING WOMEN

408. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that web based apps are being/ have been created targeting women and posting their doctored pictures and objectionable comments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action against such app creators;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; 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 ensure that the Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable for all users. 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.

Two such Apps with derogatory and malafide intentions against women, which came to the notice of Government, were hosted on an open-source platform namely “GitHub”. Both the Apps allegedly picked up the profiles of the women from social media platforms, and Twitter was used to promote the alleged content.

‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The Law Enforcement Agencies take legal action as per provisions of applicable law. In the instant case, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) coordinated with service providers and provided technical information to law enforcement agency to facilitate investigation.

(c) to (e):The rapid growth of the internet coupled with its openness enables people to post and create any information/application with anonymity from anywhere in the cyber space. Such Apps reflect the aberrations of the society and the misuse of capabilities to develop the Apps and post any unlawful activities in the virtual space. Such cyber crimes are investigated by Law

Enforcement Agencies at Centre and States as per the provisions available in Indian Penal Code, Information Technology Act, 2000 and other applicable laws.
