

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2582
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.03.2021

LESSONS ON INTERNET ETIQUETTES AND CYBER-BULLYING

2582. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Education proposes to introduce lessons on internet etiquette and ethics in schools in the upcoming academic year for children age seven and above and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of complaints received by the Government about cyberbullying during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise and the steps taken by the Government in this regards;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that unlike in UK and US, India does not have any rules and laws under which sponsored content should be flagged and if so, the details thereof and the reactions of the Government thereto; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes to regulate, with the help of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, sponsored content to protect the customers from misleading advertisements and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a): National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has developed Information and Communication Technology (ICT) curriculum for teachers and students in school education. As a part of this curriculum, safety, security and ethics in the cyber world are being introduced as separate chapters in ICT, IT and Computer Science textbooks for class 9 to 12. The cyber safety components have also been introduced into the course content of ICT curriculum for students till class 8.

(b): As per the data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of 7, 40 and 45 cases were registered for cyber stalking/bullying, under section 354D of Indian Penal Code, under cyber-crimes against children during the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. The details of State/UT wise cases reported during 2017 – 2019 are at **Annexure**.

‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. States/UTs are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes including cyber-crime through law enforcement machinery. The Law Enforcement Agencies take legal actions as per provision of law against offenders.

To strengthen the mechanism to deal with cyber-crimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the Central Government has taken steps for spreading awareness about cyber-crimes; issuance of alerts/advisories; capacity building/training of law enforcement personnel/prosecutors/ judicial officers; improving cyber forensic facilities; etc.

(c) and (d): The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, notified under the Information Technology Act, 2000, provides for dealing with unlawful content appearing on intermediary platform and Online Curated Content Platforms. These rules provide for mechanism of complaint and grievance redressal. A three-level grievance redressal mechanism has been established under the rules with two levels of self-regulation, Level-I being the publisher and Level-II being the Self-Regulatory Body, and the third level being the

Oversight Mechanism under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The rules provide for an effective grievance redressal mechanism for receiving, processing, and time-bound disposal of public grievances related to the Code of Ethics. The publishers shall appoint a Grievance Redressal Officer based in India, who shall be responsible for the redressal of grievances received by it. The self-regulatory body would be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court, or by a person of eminence from the relevant field, and can issue advisories to the publisher.

Annexure

State/UT-wise cases registered under Cyber Stalking/Bullying under Cyber-crime against Children (Sec 354D IPC r/w IT Act) during 2017-2019

S. No.	State/UT	2017	2018	2019
		Cases Registered	Cases Registered	Cases Registered
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	6	3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	0
4	Bihar	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	1	0
6	Goa	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	1	2	1
8	Haryana	0	0	2
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0
12	Karnataka	0	0	0
13	Kerala	0	1	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	1	4	3
15	Maharashtra	3	16	28

16	Manipur	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0
20	Odisha	0	0	2
21	Punjab	0	0	0
22	Rajasthan	1	1	0
23	Sikkim	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
25	Telangana	0	1	3
26	Tripura	0	0	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	0	4	1
28	Uttarakhand	0	0	0
29	West Bengal	0	1	1
	Total State(s)	7	37	44
30	A&N Islands	0	0	0
31	Chandigarh	0	0	0
32	D&N Haveli	0	0	0
33	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
34	Delhi	0	3	1
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0
	Total UT(s)	0	3	1
	Total (All India)	7	40	45

Source: Crime in India
