

Technology (Amendment) Act 2008 with effect from 27.10.2009 together with the Indian Penal Code 1860, provides legal framework for countering pornographic sites including child pornography. Sections 67, 67A and 67B of the Information Technology Act provides stringent punishment and fine for publishing or transmission of pornography in electronic form as well as hosting on website any information which is lascivious, or contains sexually explicit act or conduct, or depicts children engaged in sexually explicit act. Section 67 provides imprisonment up to three years and fine up to five lakh rupees for first conviction and imprisonment up to five years and fine up to ten lakh rupees for subsequent convictions. Section 67A and section 67B provides punishment up to five years and fine up to ten lakh rupees for first conviction and imprisonment up to seven years and fine up to ten lakh rupees for subsequent convictions. Further, the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified on 11.4.2011 under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act 2000 requires that Intermediaries shall publish policy on their Website advising their users *inter-alia* not to publish or transmit on their Websites.

In addition, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 (POCSO) specifically deals with the punishment for crimes against children including Publishing or transmitting of any information depicting child below the age of 18 years in Sexually Explicit Act. The crimes against Children including Child pornography has been criminalized under the said legal framework. Section 21 of the POCSO Act make it mandatory to report or record sexual offences against children. Failure to report or record such an offence is punishable with imprisonment or fine or with both.

#### **Telecom districts in Karnataka**

1619. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of telecom districts in Karnataka;
- (b) how many are working on *ad-hoc* system and since how many days;
- (c) the details thereof; and

(d) by when their posts would be filled up without dustrubing the day-to-day activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHRIMATI KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that there are 19 Telecom Districts in Karnataka. No Telecom District in the State is working on adhoc basis. Based on administrative requirements and availability of officers from time to time. Officers are entrusted with the responsibility of managing the affairs of more than one Telecom District.

#### **Internet cable landing stations**

1620. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of internet cable landing stations along with the ownership distribution;

(b) whether Government intends to break the monopoly in fixing high charges for bandwidth by companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Sir, Internet Service providers and International Long Distance service providers are permitted to establish internet cable landing station. So far, total 12 Cable landng stations have been established by International Long Distance service providers namely, Tata Communications Ltd. (5 No.), Bharti Airtel Ltd. (4 No.), Reliance Communications Ltd. (2 No.) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (1 No.).

(b) and (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released "The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-Location Charges Regulations, 2012" (No. 27 of 2012) on 21/12/2012. The