

Monitoring and blocking of offensive online content

* 145. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee, in its meeting held on 5th September, 2014, has delegated the task of preparing a list of pornographic sites for blocking, to the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), an industry organization;

(b) if so, the reasons for entrusting a private entity with a function that ought to be discharged by Government agencies in public interest; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to enhance and strengthen the capacity and technical expertise of Government agencies for monitoring and blocking of offensive online content?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) In Writ Petition in the matter of Kamlesh Vaswani vs. Union of India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 29.8.2014 directed that it would be appropriate if the Government places the copy of the writ petition and interlocutory applications before the Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee (CRAC), which has members from all sections of the Society including Government, Industry, Civil Society and Academy, for its consideration. The constitution of the Committee (CRAC) was revised and notified in Oct. 2010. The last CRAC meeting was held on 5th September 2014 to discuss issues relating to availability of pornography material on the Internet and filtering of the same by the service providers in the country. CRAC requested Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), an association of members from content providers to lead the effort as part of Social responsibility, to collect and maintain the repository of blacklisted pornography sites from various sources including list of child pornography sites maintained by other countries. Further, IAMAI was requested to set up help lines and web portal for reporting of such sites through Crowd sourcing mechanism. IAMAI would regularly provide the list of such sites to Government for further appropriate action. Similar approach is adopted by other countries like Australia, United Kingdom and United States of America, where the Governments are working with Non - Government Organizations (NGOs) to filter pornography sites.

(c) The filtering of web sites with obscene / objectionable content poses significant technical challenge. These websites keep on changing the names, domain addresses and hosting platforms from time to time making it difficult to filter or block such websites

using technical tools available in the market. Further, social networking sites with encrypted content are used to transmit the pornographic content which makes filtering difficult as the data is encrypted. Therefore, the tools provide filtering to a limited extent only. The tools, in the process may also filter genuine content and degrade the performance of systems.

To address the issues effectively, Government is in regular touch with Internet Service Providers to upgrade their infrastructure and technology to effectively address the shortcomings with regard to identifying and blocking encrypted websites / URLs. Further, Social Networking sites are monitored by the security agencies in order to check / remove objectionable contents from the web sites in consultation with Indian Computer Emergency Team (CERT-In) in accordance with the provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000. Government is in regular touch with Social Networking sites, having their offices in India, to disable objectionable contents at the source from their websites. Government has also initiated Research and Development programmes to deal with technical issues relating to encrypted communications from the point of monitoring and blocking.

Selling of impure gold jewellery

*146. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether jewellers, including licensed hallmarked gold jewellers, are selling impure gold jewellery at the rate of pure gold jewellery and fleecing consumers;
- (b) if so, the details of measures taken by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to safeguard the interests of consumers;
- (c) the details of jewellers booked for selling impure gold jewellery during the last three years and the action taken against each of them; and
- (d) the steps taken to check the sale of sub-standard gold jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The most recent survey (2006) conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in 16 cities indicated that 90% of the samples of non-hallmarked jewellery had failed showing 13.5% average shortage of declared purity.

Sampling of Hallmarked Jewellery, which is a small part of the total jewellery sold in India, was undertaken by BIS in the months of February and March, 2015. Results