

Section 14 and Section 15 lays down the punishment for using child for pornographic purposes and for storage of pornographic material involving child.

Further Section 28 of the POCSO Act 2012 provides for establishment of Special Courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences under the Act.

Section 43 of the POCSO Act, 2012 provides that the Central Government and every State Government takes all measures to give wide publicity to the provisions of the Act. In accordance with this, MWCD has taken various steps from time to time to create awareness of the provisions of the POCSO Act through electronic and print media, consultations, workshops and training programmes with stakeholders concerned. Further, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) are also mandated to monitor the implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012.

3. Government has taken a number of steps to be implemented by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to protect children from sexual abuse online. These include:—

- (i) Government blocks the websites containing extreme Child sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) based on INTERPOL's "Worst-of-list" shared periodically by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which is the National Nodal Agency for Interpol. The list is shared with Department of Telecommunications (DoT), who then directs major ISPs to block such websites.
- (ii) Government ordered major ISPs in India to adopt and disable/remove the online CSAM dynamically based on Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), UK list.
- (iii) MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) has implemented a major programme on Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA). A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) has also been set up.

#### **Plan for revival of SAARC**

2900. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it a fact that South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has not achieved its goals;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible for this; and
- (c) whether India has any plan to revive SAARC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) India is one of the founder Members of SAARC. India continues to strengthen its relations with SAARC Member countries as per our foreign policy priority *i.e.* 'Neighbourhood First'.

India enjoys excellent bilateral relations with SAARC countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

However, regional cooperation is adversely affected due to continued support to cross-border terrorism and interference in the internal affairs of member states by one country.

India has continued its commitment to regional cooperation under SAARC with initiatives such as launch of South Asia Satellite, extension of India's National Knowledge Network (NKN), continued support to South Asian University (SAU) and SAARC Disaster Management Centre (Interim Unit).

#### **Students in Government schools**

†2901. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children who study in Government primary schools out of the total number of children getting primary education;

(b) the percentage of children who study in Government secondary and higher secondary schools out of the total number of children getting secondary and higher secondary education;

(c) whether Government has proposed any plan so that more and more children get education in Government schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) As per Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) 2017-18 (provisional), the percentage of children enrolled at Primary level in Government schools out of total children enrolled at Primary level is 56.66. The percentage of children enrolled at Secondary level in Government schools out of total children enrolled at Secondary level is 44.23. The percentage of children enrolled at Higher Secondary level in Government schools out of total children enrolled at Higher Secondary level is 36.12.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.