GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3233

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH MARCH, 2021/ CHAITRA 3, 1943 (SAKA)

MISUSE OF 'CYBER CRIME VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME'

3233. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to devise measures under the 'Cyber Crime Volunteer Programme to ensure against its misuse for personal or political vendetta and prevent cyber vigilantism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has clearly defined as to what would constitute 'unlawful content' or content which would relate to anti- national activities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, whether Government would frame an outline defining such 'unlawful content' any time soon; and
- (f) the process in place for withdrawal of cyber crime complaints once submitted?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (f): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. States/UTs are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). The LEAs take legal

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action as per provisions of law against the offenders. The challenges of cyber space are many which flow from its vastness and borderless character. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has established Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) in New Delhi to provide a framework and eco-system for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to deal with cyber crimes in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

Cyber Crime Volunteer Framework has been rolled out as a part of cyber hygiene promotion to bring together citizens to contribute in the fight against cybercrime in the country and assist State/UT LEAs in their endeaver to curb cyber crimes. The volunteers will be registered and their services utilized by the respective State/UT Police Agencies, as per their requirements. Cyber Volunteers will be registered, following the due process and they will be required to furnish ID proof, address proof, photograph etc. They will assist State/UT LEAs for cyber hygiene promotion, as technical experts, and for reporting of content which is unlawful as per provisions of law. The content reported shall be verified and validated by the State/UT LEAs for taking appropriate action as per the existing provisions of law. There is no discretion in the hands of cyber volunteer.