

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1179
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.02.2021

DIGITAL SAFETY CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS

1179 SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has provided any guidelines/inputs to the Ministry of Education on including digital safety curriculum in schools as well as colleges, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there have been any guidelines issued by the Ministry to social media intermediaries to counter online harassment against women, if so, the details thereof; and the relevant documents?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Ministry has approved a project on Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project Phase II, which inter-alia includes a component of creating mass awareness on Information Security. Under this activity, the draft cyber security curriculum for 3rd to 12th standard covering cyber safety and security aspects was designed and submitted to National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for suitable inclusion in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) curriculum for students in school education. The inputs of ISEA Project was considered by NCERT while designing the ICT textbooks for class IX and X, which broadly covers cyber safety & security aspects under the chapters on 'safety and security in cyber world' for class IX and 'concerns of using ICT' – for class X. Besides this, CBSE has also issued guidelines on safe and effective use of internet and digital technologies in schools affiliated to it across the country, which inter-alia includes reference to information security awareness content available at www.infosecawareness.in for ready reference of the schools.

(b): The legal provisions to counter online harassment against women are as follows:

(i) The Information Technology Act, 2000 has provisions to deal with cyber crime against women. Sections 66E, 67, and 67A of the Act provides for the punishment and fine for violation of privacy, publishing or transmitting of obscene/sexually-explicit material in electronic form. Further, sections 354A and 354D of Indian Penal Code provide punishment for cyber bullying and cyber stalking.

(ii) The social media platforms are intermediaries as defined in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. Section 79 of the Act and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under this section require that the intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is, inter alia, grossly harmful, harassing, defamatory, obscene, pornographic, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or

racially, ethnically objectionable, disparaging, or otherwise unlawful in any manner. They are also expected to remove any unlawful content relating to Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by appropriate government or its agency.
