

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 61**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022/ MAGHA 13, 1943 (SAKA)**

**CYBER CRIME AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**61. SHRI IRANNA KADADI:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the digital space is being increasingly used to perpetuate violence against women and children;**

**(b) if so, the steps taken by Government regarding cyber crime against women and children, particularly the elimination of online child sexual abuse material, rape imagery and other offensive material;**

**(c) whether Government is setting up online central reporting mechanism for lodging complaints of cyber-crime and if so, the details thereof;**

**(d) whether Government has directed all the Ministries/Departments to create a special division on women issues; and**

**(e) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

**(a) to (c): With the enhanced use of cyber space, the number of cyber crimes is also increasing including against women and children. '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 action as per provisions of law against the offenders. The Central Government has taken measures to deal with cyber crimes against women and children which, inter-alia, include the following:**

- i. Section 67B of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides stringent punishment for publishing, browsing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form. Sections 66E, 67, and 67A of the Act provide for the punishment and fine for violation of bodily privacy and publishing or transmitting of obscene/sexually-explicit material in electronic form.**
- ii. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 notified under the IT Act, specify that the intermediaries shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is, inter alia, obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, harms minor in any way; violates any law for the time being in force; etc. Also rule 3(2)(b) of these Rules provides that on a complaint by an individual, intermediary shall, within 24 hours, remove any content which prima facie exposes the private area of such individual, shows such individual in full or partial nudity or shows or depicts such individual in any sexual act or conduct, or is in the nature of impersonation in an electronic form, including artificially morphed images of such individual.**
- iii. The Government periodically blocks the websites containing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) based on INTERPOL's "worst of list" received through the national nodal agency for Interpol in India.**

- iv. The concerned Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been ordered to work out a suitable arrangement for receiving Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), UK list of CSAM websites/webpages on a dynamic basis and block access to child pornography webpages/websites.**
- v. A MoU is signed between the NCRB, India and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA regarding receiving of Tipline report on online child pornography and child sexual exploitation contents from NCMEC. The Tiplines, as received from NCMEC, are being shared with States/UTs online through National Cybercrime Reporting Portal for taking further action.**
- vi. The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided financial assistance under the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) Scheme, to all States/UTs for setting up of cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories, hiring of junior cyber consultants and capacity building of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), public prosecutors and judicial officers. Cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories have been commissioned in 28 States/UTs.**
- vii. Training curriculum has been prepared for Law Enforcement Agencies personnel, prosecutors and judicial officers for better handling of investigation and prosecution. States/UTs have been requested to organize training programmes. More than 19,600 LEA personnel, judicial**

**officers and prosecutors have been provided training on cyber crime awareness, investigation, forensics etc. under Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children Scheme.**

- viii. Ministry of Home Affairs operationalized the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal to provide a centralized mechanism to the citizens for online reporting of all types of cyber crime incidents, with a special focus on cyber crimes against women and children. Incidents reported on this portal are automatically routed to the State/UT law enforcement agency concerned for taking further steps as per the provisions of the law.**
- ix. Ministry of Home Affairs has also set up the 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' to deal with all types of cyber crime in the country, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.**
- x. To enhance awareness about Cyber Crimes, an easy to understand 'Handbook for Adolescents/Students' booklet has been released and the booklet is available at <https://mha.gov.in/documents/downloads> and [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in).**
- xi. A Twitter handle namely "@CyberDost" has been launched to spread cyber awareness, on which messages are being posted regularly.**

**(d) & (e): The Ministry of Home Affairs has created 'Women Safety Division' in 2018 to address the issues of safety of women comprehensively.**

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