

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2407

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CYBER BAITING

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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a survey, the cyber baiting has assumed serious proportions among the children due to the use of Internet which is resulting in the tendency of suicide, violence and other crimes among them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any rules to prevent the transmission of such contents on internet; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a)and(b): Worldwide various organisations conduct surveys and publish reports on Internet Security covering aspects like cyber crime, cyber threats and attack trends in the cyber space. Different methodologies and techniques for data collection are followed by these organisations. One such international survey was conducted by Norton, Symantec Corporation in November 2011 covering 24 countries including India. According to Norton's latest Online Family Report, Cyber baiting is identified as a growing phenomenon all over the world.

(c)and(d): Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediaries guidelines) Rules, 2011 under Section 19 of the Information Technology Act, 2000. These rules provide for the intermediaries which includes social networking sites to observe due diligence and safeguards for prevention of hosting of obscene, blasphemous, pornographic, paedophilic, defamatory etc. material on their website. Further, sections 67, 67A and 67B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides stringent punishment-and fine for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form as well as for publishing or transmitting material containing sexually explicit act, or depicting children engaged in sexually explicit act.

As per seventh schedule, 'Police and Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution, and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women and children, lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Similarly, Education is also a State subject. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against women and children. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory on Preventing & combating Cyber Crime against Children dated 4n January, 2012, wherein it was advised to States / Union Territories to specifically combat the crimes in the forms of cyber stalking, cyber bullying, child pornography and exposure to sexually explicit material etc.