

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2874

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012

ONLINE COMMENTS

Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) the number of persons arrested for harmless online comments on internet during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether arrest for expressing an opinion is against the Fundamental Rights;
- (c) if so, the action the Government proposes in this regard;
- (d) the reasons for violation of the Fundamental Rights conferred by the Constitution and verdict of the Supreme Court;
- (e) whether the Government would fix responsibility in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a): The specific information of persons arrested for harmless online comments is not maintained.

(b) to (f): Offensive comments when posted online with an ulterior motive causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, or ill will may attract penal provisions of Section 66 A of IT Act. Article 19(2) in Constitution of India also provides for imposition of reasonable restrictions in the enjoyment of fundamental rights guaranteed for freedom of speech and expression in Article 19(1) (a).