

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:276

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012

OBJECTIONABLE CONTENT ON CYBER SITES

Chauhan Shri Dara Singh;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked the social networking sites to remove certain contents which were construed as objectionable from their website;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such requests made to these networking sites during the last three years and the current year and their response thereto along with the details of web pages blocked by the Government recently and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether some individuals have been booked recently in the country under section 66 A of the Information Technology Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.276 FOR 12.12.2012 REGARDING OBJECTIONABLE CONTENT ON CYBER SITES

(a) and (b): Government has issued an Advisory on 17th August, 2012 to all the intermediaries including national and international social networking sites, advising them to take necessary action to disable inflammatory and hateful content hosted on their websites on priority basis. Based on the request of law enforcement agencies and directions of the Courts during the last three years, the competent authority under section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 issued directions to intermediaries for blocking of 690 web pages/URLs carrying such anti-social, anti-national and hateful content. Out of these, 663 webpages/URLs were blocked during the current year. All the intermediaries complied with the directions issued to them by the competent authority and blocked the webpages/URLs for access in the country.

(c): The law and order is a state subject. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) a total of 420, 966 and 1791 Cyber Crimes cases were registered under Information Technology Act during 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Details of such cases are provided in the Annexure. Information for the current year is not yet available.

As reported in the media in the recent past, there have been four cases against some individuals in the country, out of which in three cases sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as well as section 66A of the Information Technology Act are invoked and in one case section 66A of the Information Technology Act is invoked.

(d) and (e): The Information Technology Act, 2000 has adequate provisions to deal with such situations and are in tune with the citizen's right of freedom of speech and expression as enshrined in the constitution of India. Further, the Government has held several rounds of discussions with stakeholders including the social media to address the issue of proper implementation of the provisions of the Act. It has been agreed to provide necessary guidelines to prevent misinterpretation of the provisions of the Act and to minimise the unintended consequences.