

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3607

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015

CYBER BULLYING

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

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(a) whether instances of cyber bullying i.e. writing objectionable contents about someone, threatening, embarrassing or harassing them over the internet are increasing in the society, particularly among youth and students;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact stringent laws to check such incidents; and

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government to bring awareness among the members of judiciary, police and society to save the youths / students from the menace of cyber bullying?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): With the introduction of new technologies, devices including smart phones / Tablets and innovative applications on such devices, the usage of cyberspace has rapidly increased in the society. Use of social media has also emerged as a key tool for interaction and reliable communication among the society. The cyberspace is virtual, borderless and anonymous. Certain elements in the society make use of such unique characteristics of cyberspace and post objectionable content and threatening messages which may be embarrassing or harassing the society and lead to cyber crimes. These cyber crimes include cyber bullying and cyber stalking too. Such nature of objectionable content is on the rise, in general, on the cyberspace across the world.

(b): The Information Technology Act 2000 as amended in 2008 has adequate provisions to deal with prevailing Cyber Crimes including Cyber bullying and Cyber Stalking. It provides punishment in the form of imprisonment and fine / penalty depending on the type of Cyber Crime.

(c): To address Cyber Crimes like Cyber bullying and Cyber Stalking effectively and to create a culture of cyber security and privacy enabling responsible user behavior and actions through an effective communication and promotion strategy, cyber security awareness creation has been identified as one of the strategies to create secure eco system in Cyber space. The steps to promote Cyber security awareness taken by the Government include:

i) The Government has been implementing a major programme on Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA). The objectives of the program include creation of mass information security awareness targeted to cover approximately 3 crore Internet users. So far, 623 workshops have been organized across the country covering about 21,600 Teachers / Parents / Common Services Centers (CSC) / Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), including various government officers etc, and about 60,100 school children / Engineering or Degree college students. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<http://www.infosecawareness.in>) has been set up.

ii) Government has initiated mass cyber security awareness project. One such project has been implemented in North-eastern states of Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim targeted towards creating awareness among youth and public including School / College students.

iii) Government has set up cyber forensic training and investigation labs in the States of Kerala, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir for training of Law Enforcement and Judiciary in these States.

iv) A website (secureyourpc.in) for children, home users and elderly is available for safeguarding their computer systems and learning the risks on Internet.

v) In collaboration with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), NASSCOM, Cyber Forensic Labs have been set up at Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune and Kolkata for awareness creation and training programmes on Cyber Crime investigation to Police officers.

vi) National Law School, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad are also engaged in conducting several awareness and training programmes on Cyber Laws and Cyber crimes for judicial officers.

vii) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) are

involved in providing basic and advanced training to Law Enforcement Agencies, Forensic labs and judiciary on the procedures and methodology of collecting, analyzing and presenting digital evidence.

viii) More than 26000 Police Officers and 600 judicial officers have so far been trained in the Training Labs established by the Government.

ix) Cyber Crime Cells have been set up in all States and Union Territories for reporting and investigation of Cyber Crime cases.