

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 979
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

DIGITAL SAFETY OF CITIZENS

979. DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure digital safety of citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of orders served by the Government to social media platforms to take down content hampering the digital safety of citizens since 2021;
- (d) whether the Government is maintaining data of sub-judice cases on cyber stalking, bullying and harassment across the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government has held any consultation with Social Media platforms on the aforementioned issues; and
- (g) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring an Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable Internet for all digital nagriks. Safety and Trust will in turn ensure digital safety of users. The Information Technology Act, 2000 (“IT Act”) and rules made thereunder contain several provisions for safeguarding Digital Nagriks from digital crimes. The IT Act penalises various offences relating to computer resources, including tampering with computer source documents (section 65), dishonestly or fraudulently damaging computer system (section 66), identity theft (section 66C), cheating by impersonation (section 66D), etc.

In addition to such general provisions regarding cyber offences, it also provides for various offences that serve to secure the digital space for women, e.g., violation of bodily privacy (section 66E), transmitting of obscene material (section 67), and publishing or transmission of material containing sexually explicit act in electronic form (section 67A and 67B). These offences are in addition to various penal provisions under the Indian Penal Code, such as the offence of stalking using electronic communication (section 354D).

Further, the Central Government, in exercise of powers conferred by IT Act, has notified the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”). These new rules cast specific obligation on intermediaries vis-à-vis what kind of information is to be hosted, displayed, uploaded, published, transmitted, stored or shared. Intermediaries are also required to remove any content violative of any law for the time being in force as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by appropriate government or its authorised agency. In case of failure to follow diligence as provided in the IT Rules, 2021, by intermediaries, they shall lose their exemption from liability under section 79 of the IT Act and shall be liable for consequential action as provided in such law. Further, in case an intermediary is a significant social media intermediary (an

intermediary having more than 50 lakh registered users in India), to additionally observe due diligence in terms of appointing, in India, a Grievance Officer, a Chief Compliance Officer and a nodal contact person for 24x7

coordination with law enforcement agencies. As per the IT Rules, 2021, the Chief Compliance Officer is responsible for ensuring compliance with the IT Act and the rules made thereunder.

Keeping in view complaints regarding action or inaction, on the part of the social media intermediaries and other intermediaries on user grievances regarding objectionable content or suspension of their accounts, the Central Government has also established three GACs (Grievance Appellate Committees), as provided for in the said IT Rules, 2021 to enable users to appeal against the decisions taken by Grievance Officer of intermediaries on user complaints.

(c): Section 69A of the IT Act provides power to the Central Government to issue directions to block any information if it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interest of sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for inciting cognizable offence relating to above. The Central Government has issued directions for blocking of 6096, 6775 and 3470 URLs in the year 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

(d) and (e): As per the information maintained by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), State/UT-wise and Crime Head-wise cases registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases sent for trial, cases convicted, persons arrested, person charge-sheeted and persons convicted under the category Cybercrime (involving communication devices as medium or target), during the period 2019-2021 is placed at Annexure-I and Annexure-II, respectively. Latest published data pertains to the year 2021.

(f) and (g): In achieving the Government's objectives at ensuring an Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable Internet for its users, the Government engages with the public and stakeholders including social media intermediaries, in respect of digital safety of digital nagriks.

Cases Registered(CR), Cases Charge-sheeted(CCS), Cases Sent for Trial (CST), Cases Convicted(CON), Persons Arrested(PAR), Persons Charge-sheeted(PCS) and Persons Convicted under Cyber Crimes During 2019-2021

	2019							2020							2021					
	CR	CCS	CST	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CST	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CST	CON	PAR	
Andhra Pradesh	1886	235	235	3	452	344	5	1899	314	314	6	475	446	9	1875	374	374	8	3	
Assam	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	30	1	1	0	12	1	0	47	3	3	0		
Bihar	2231	349	349	13	1636	733	13	3530	385	385	0	1717	395	0	4846	579	579	2	60	
Chhattisgarh	1050	288	288	4	1014	519	17	1512	651	651	0	751	727	0	1413	424	424	2	9	
Goa	175	94	94	13	139	136	19	297	152	152	3	209	188	3	352	200	200	0	2	
Gujarat	15	20	20	0	3	25	0	40	6	6	0	15	15	0	36	18	18	0		
Haryana	784	447	447	0	1083	1064	0	1283	475	475	0	942	906	0	1536	715	715	0	13	
Himachal Pradesh	564	188	188	6	314	288	10	656	221	221	0	347	323	0	622	326	326	3	6	
Jharkhand	76	20	20	2	44	24	2	98	31	31	0	46	39	0	70	63	63	1		
Karnataka	1095	344	344	19	402	568	19	1204	462	462	125	820	791	131	953	400	400	25	14	
Kerala	12020	111	111	9	446	183	10	10741	2842	2842	2	489	2916	2	8136	5801	5801	10	6	
Madhya Pradesh	307	176	176	2	220	214	2	426	161	161	0	299	179	0	626	287	287	2	4	
Maharashtra	602	405	405	18	659	531	24	699	445	445	14	692	598	15	589	487	487	50	8	
Odisha	4967	980	980	7	1739	1470	9	5496	902	902	3	1735	1238	3	5562	1428	1428	23	24	
Punjab	4	0	0	0	8	0	0	79	0	0	0	17	0	0	67	2	2	0		
Rajasthan	89	2	2	0	3	3	0	142	1	1	0	9	7	0	107	6	6	0		
Tamil Nadu	8	4	4	0	5	5	0	13	8	8	2	4	8	2	30	20	20	3		
Telangana	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0		
Uttar Pradesh	1485	220	220	0	316	351	0	1931	282	282	0	369	396	0	2037	313	313	0	3	
West Bengal	243	90	90	5	259	118	9	378	106	106	1	298	162	1	551	188	188	4	4	
Other States	1762	312	312	35	571	556	41	1354	340	340	24	541	520	32	1504	502	502	23	8	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Chandernagore	385	113	113	8	400	161	10	782	135	135	7	516	237	9	1076	147	147	6	6	
Daman & Diu	2691	847	847	10	748	1564	11	5024	939	939	280	1169	1158	282	10303	1361	1361	19	14	
India	20	4	4	0	1	5	0	34	5	5	0	6	5	0	24	10	10	0		
North East	11416	3705	3705	201	4324	5258	272	11097	4987	4987	642	6491	6427	878	8829	4407	4407	292	68	
North West	100	40	40	1	71	72	1	243	58	58	0	93	80	0	718	158	158	0	2	
South	524	104	104	4	215	124	4	712	178	178	0	203	313	0	513	307	307	17	2	
South East	(S)	44511	9099	9099	360	15076	14318	478	49708	14087	14087	1109	18265	18075	1367	52430	18526	18526	490	267
South West	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	3	5	0	8	3	3	0		
Uttarakhand	23	9	9	5	14	14	6	17	3	3	1	4	3	2	15	6	6	0		
Uttaranchal	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	5	2	2	0		
West Bengal	115	58	58	2	147	80	2	168	61	61	0	107	77	0	356	157	157	1	4	
Other States	73	18	18	0	22	22	0	120	14	14	0	33	23	0	154	49	49	0	1	
Other States	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0		
Other States	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0		
Other States	4	3	3	0	8	8	0	10	5	5	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0		
Other States	224	88	88	7	192	124	8	327	89	89	1	155	114	2	544	218	218	1	6	
Other States	44735	9187	9187	367	15268	14442	486	50035	14176	14176	1110	18420	18189	1369	52974	18744	18744	491	273	

India

and data of erstwhile D&N Haveli UT and Daman & Diu UT during 2019

of Jammu & Kashmir State including Ladakh during 2019

Cases Registered (CR), Cases Charge-sheeted (CCS), Cases Sent for Trial (CST), Cases Convicted (CON), Persons Arrested (PAR), Persons Charge-sheeted (PCS) and (PCV) under Cyber Crimes during 2019-2021

Offences	2019							2020							2021				
	CR	CCS	CST	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CST	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CST	CON	PAR
Computer Misuse	173	42	42	2	60	62	8	338	76	76	20	153	134	23	55	51	51	0	0
Defacement	23734	3691	3691	161	5174	5586	188	21926	6435	6435	508	6499	7726	568	19915	10256	10256	211	9
Denial of Service	12	3	3	0	17	11	0	26	4	4	0	20	6	0	15	6	6	0	0
Transmission of sexually explicit electronic information	4203	1567	1567	86	2531	2111	106	6308	2343	2343	66	3858	3170	82	6598	2811	2811	123	4
Decryption	9	8	8	0	8	8	0	7	3	3	0	3	3	0	2	1	1	0	0
Not to be used in any court of law	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Commitment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	7	4	4	0	0
Commitment	14	10	10	0	16	14	0	18	12	12	0	16	14	0	5	3	3	0	0
Offence under IT Act	2699	451	451	50	727	690	78	1017	320	320	37	509	431	48	827	386	386	19	0
Under I.T.	30846	5774	5774	299	8535	8484	380	29643	9194	9194	631	11059	11485	721	27427	13518	13518	353	15
Incident	7	6	6	0	12	12	0	10	6	6	0	12	7	0	10	10	10	0	0
Bullying of children	771	463	463	12	673	581	15	872	438	438	8	619	525	10	1176	702	702	15	0
Child Abuse	282	28	28	1	59	42	1	98	137	137	75	205	195	75	170	33	33	3	0
Child Abuse	6229	1119	1119	18	2539	1980	40	10395	1688	1688	221	2332	2268	246	14007	1815	1815	30	3
Child Abuse	3367	535	535	10	1249	1292	14	4480	771	771	60	1277	1163	85	6343	842	842	27	3
Child Abuse	511	127	127	0	167	463	0	582	419	419	77	479	454	189	198	102	102	16	0
Harphing	19	4	4	0	5	4	0	51	4	4	0	15	6	0	31	11	11	0	0
Harphing	85	35	35	0	45	43	0	149	43	43	2	65	65	2	123	39	39	1	0
Harphing	5	5	5	0	8	8	0	9	2	2	0	10	4	0	2	1	1	0	0
Threatening	362	109	109	2	296	145	2	303	121	121	6	203	153	6	689	238	238	2	1
Social	188	60	60	1	171	94	1	578	145	145	1	213	207	1	179	148	148	0	0
Social	1974	883	883	23	1404	1204	31	2674	1123	1123	9	1716	1501	14	2456	1198	1198	36	1
Under IPC	13800	3374	3374	67	6628	5868	104	20201	4897	4897	459	7146	6548	628	25384	5139	5139	130	11
Online	22	16	16	0	58	54	0	63	31	31	7	116	85	7	27	26	26	3	0
Online	9	1	1	0	11	1	0	26	12	12	11	14	12	11	4	5	5	0	0
Online	34	10	10	0	8	11	0	49	24	24	0	44	36	0	32	28	28	0	0
Online	1	3	3	0	2	3	0	5	2	2	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Online	23	9	9	1	26	21	2	48	16	16	2	38	21	2	99	28	28	5	0
Under SLL	89	39	39	1	105	90	2	191	85	85	20	215	156	20	163	87	87	8	0
Offences	44735	9187	9187	367	15268	14442	486	50035	14176	14176	1110	18420	18189	1369	52974	18744	18744	491	27

