

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.468
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.02.2019

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

468. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

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

- (a) whether it is true that the Cellular Operators Association of India has approached the Government flagging operational issues in implementing a directive that mandates use of an Internet Watch Foundation list for blocking online child sexual abuse content;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that such sites should be barred as per the Interpol list provided by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Government, on 18.4.2017, had issued an order for implementing Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), U.K. list for curbing of online child sexual abuse material (CSAM) by 31.7.2017 by those Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who control gateway traffic in India. The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has raised the issue of fee & had desired that Government obtains such a list & provides to the ISPs. However, as per the IWF terms & conditions, this list is provided directly to the ISPs at a cost without involvement of the Government.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. Government is already implementing Interpol's 'Worst-of-List' on child sexual abuse through Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is the national nodal agency of Interpol. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issues direction to relevant ISPs to block the websites appearing in the list.
