

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATION ON THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 61.

I, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology & Telecommunication have the honour to present this report on the "Starred Question No. 61" referred to Committee on 29th January, 2021.

2. The Committee comprises the following:

(1)	Mr. Ali Khan Jadoon	Chairman
(2)	Sahibzada Sibghatullah	Member
(3)	Mr. Sher Ali Arbab	Member
(4)	Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi	Member
(5)	Mr. Muhammad Abdul Ghafar Wattoo	Member
(6)	Sardar Muhammad Khan Laghari	Member
(7)	Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khan	Member
(8)	Ms. Javaria Zafar Aheer	Member
(9)	Ms. Kanwal Shauzab	Member
(10)	Ms. Nusrat Wahid	Member
(11)	Mr. Muhammad Hashim	Member
(12)	Malik Sohail Khan	Member
(13)	Mr. Ali Gohar Khan	Member
(14)	Ms. Aysha Rajab Ali	Member
(15)	Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam	Member
(16)	Ms. Maiza Hameed	Member
(17)	Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar	Member
(18)	Mr. Mahesh Kumar Malani	Member
(19)	Ms. Naz Baloch	Member
(20)	Syed Mehmood Shah	Member
(21)	Syed Amin UI Haque	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication	

3. The Committee considered the Starred Question as moved in the National Assembly placed at 'Annex-A' in its meeting held on 31st August, 2021. The Committee directed Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to keep a vigilant eye and submit report every three month on action taken under the law against pornographic, blasphemous and hate speech content on social media. The Committee recommended that the Starred Question placed at Annexure-A may be disposed of by the National Assembly.

Sd/-
(TAHIR HUSSAIN)
Secretary

Islamabad, the 2nd December, 2021

Sd/-
(ALI KHAN JADOON)
Chairman

61.

*Choudhary Faqir Ahmad:

Referred to
Standing Committee

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken notice of disproportionate access to objectionable/pornographic images, texts and videos on internet in the country; if so, the detail thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated a long-term policy to deal with such online contents; if so, the details thereof; if not, reasons thereof;
- (c) the law, which regulates and punish the people who either facilitate or abet such activities; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government plans to undertake any programme or campaign on cyber bullying and the manner in which people in general and children in particular should navigate the internet safely; if so, the details thereof; if not, reasons thereof?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Syed Amin-ul-Haque): (a) Prevention of Electronic Crime Act (PECA) 2016 is in place to curb dissemination of objectionable content on internet in Pakistan. Under section 37 of PECA 2016 Pakistan Telecommunication Authority is empowered to issue directions for removal or blocking of offensive information in the interest of religion(s) and for the integrity, security and defense of Pakistan. PTA has so far blocked 952,147 Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) containing objectionable content.

(b) Under section 37 (2) of PECA 2016 the Federal Government has recently approved the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards) Rules 2020 which will further strengthen the process and oversight mechanism for procedure of filing, processing and disposal of complaints related to unlawful online content.

(c) Under section 29 of PECA 2016, Federal Investigation Agency has been empowered to prosecute individuals involved in crimes committed under the said Act.

(d) As part of public awareness campaign, PTA has taken several steps to educate the general public through SMS and advertisements to report any unlawful online content to PTA for blocking/removal through designated electronic portal — the detail is attached as Annex-A.

قومی اسمبلی سیکرٹریٹ

نشاندار سوال نمبر ۶۱ پر قائمہ کمیٹی برائے انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی و ٹیلی مواصلات کی رپورٹ۔

میں، چیئر مین قائمہ کمیٹی برائے انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی و ٹیلی مواصلات ۲۹ جنوری، ۲۰۲۱ء کو کمیٹی کے سپرد کردہ

”نشاندار سوال نمبر ۶۱“ پر رپورٹ ہذا پیش کرنے کا شرف حاصل کرتا ہوں۔

۲۔ کمیٹی حسب ذیل اراکین پر مشتمل ہے:-

چیئر مین	۱۔ جناب علی خان جدون
رکن	۲۔ صاحبزادہ صبغت اللہ
رکن	۳۔ جناب شیر علی ارباب
رکن	۴۔ مخدوم زین حسین قریشی
رکن	۵۔ جناب محمد عبدالغفار وٹو
رکن	۶۔ سردار محمد خان لغاری
رکن	۷۔ جناب محمد اسلم خان
رکن	۸۔ محترمہ جویریہ ظفر آہیر
رکن	۹۔ محترمہ کنول شوزب
رکن	۱۰۔ محترمہ نصرت واحد
رکن	۱۱۔ جناب محمد ہاشم
رکن	۱۲۔ ملک سہیل خان
رکن	۱۳۔ جناب علی گوہر خان
رکن	۱۴۔ محترمہ عائشہ رجب علی
رکن	۱۵۔ محترمہ رومینہ خورشید عالم
رکن	۱۶۔ محترمہ مائزہ حمید
رکن	۱۷۔ محترمہ شمیم آراء پنہوار
رکن	۱۸۔ جناب مہیش کمار ملانی
رکن	۱۹۔ محترمہ ناز بلوچ
رکن	۲۰۔ سید محمود شاہ
رکن بلحاظ عہدہ	۲۱۔ سید امین الحق،

وزیر برائے انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی و ٹیلی مواصلات