

approval and allocation of funds. The work will be taken in hand after allocation of funds and tendering process. (Details are enclosed).

**(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library.)**

**TO ENSURE SWIFT ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF CITIZENS**

**65. \* Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli:**

**Will the Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control be pleased to state:**

- a) whether it is a fact that personal information, photographs, and other sensitive material of individuals, including women, minors and men are being unlawfully shared on social media platforms by unknown persons without their consent, thereby violating their dignity and privacy as guaranteed under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;**
- b) if so, what legal provisions exist under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 and other relevant laws to address and penalize such acts;**
- c) whether it is also a fact that delayed enforcement, gaps, delayed investigations and limited public awareness have allowed such incidents to persist;**
- d) what concrete steps are being taken by the Government to trace offenders, strengthen enforcement, issue public warnings; and**
- e) what further steps are being taken to ensure swift accountability and effective protection of citizens, particularly vulnerable groups?**

**Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control (Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi):**

**(a)** Yes. The Government of Pakistan takes serious note of reported incidents involving the unauthorized sharing of personal information, photographs, and sensitive media on social media and other digital platforms. Such unlawful acts constitute a severe violation of the fundamental right to dignity and privacy guaranteed under Article 14 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

To counter this, the Government has designated the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) as the specialized federal agency to receive complaints, initiate swift legal proceedings, and prosecute offenders under the law.

(b) A robust and comprehensive legal framework is actively enforced under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (PECA), to penalize online privacy violations and identity-related crimes. The specific statutory provisions applicable to these offences include:

- **Section 16 (Unauthorized Use of Identity Information):** Penalizes the acquisition or use of identity information without authorization.
- **Section 20 (Offences Against Dignity of a Natural Person):** Criminalizes the transmission of false information that harms a person's reputation or privacy.
- **Section 21 (Offences Against Modesty of a Natural Person and Minor):** Strictly penalizes the transmission of sexually explicit or non-consensual sensitive media, with enhanced penalties if the victim is a minor.
- **Section 24 (Cyber Stalking):** Addresses persistent harassment, coercion, or monitoring of individuals online. Section 26 & 26A (Spoofing and False/Fake Information): Outlaws the creation of deceptive online profiles or dissemination of malicious fabrications.

(c) While the Government has established a zero-tolerance policy for cyber-harassment, investigations do face distinct structural and technical challenges. These include the use of sophisticated encryption, anonymized digital footprints, foreign-hosted platforms, and cross-border jurisdictional hurdles.

However, rather than allowing these gaps to persist, the Government is actively mitigating them. The NCCIA is continuously upgrading its digital forensic capabilities, expanding its nationwide operational footprint, and launching targeted, bilingual public awareness campaigns to ensure citizens are aware of online safety and legal remedies.

| Year | Complaints | Verification | Enquiries | Cases | Accused | Conviction | Recovery (in Million) |
|------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------|---------|------------|-----------------------|
| 2024 | 161828     | 108989       | 24012     | 1667  | 2157    | 60         | 652.6                 |
| 2025 | 157465     | 141681       | 30214     | 2356  | 2916    | 39         | 554.5                 |
| 2026 | 72400      | 38100        | 12473     | 827   | 689     | 10         | 1418.48               |