

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3279
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023

BAN ON FOREIGN APPS

3279. SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take steps to prepare indigenous Apps after imposing an immediate ban on all the foreign Apps such as Google etc. in the country which post a serious threat to the youth and safety of the nation and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether China has developed indigenous Apps after imposing foreign Apps such as Google etc. keeping in view the culture and safety of the country in mind;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether requests have also been received from the representatives of the people in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken or proposal to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring an Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable Internet for its all users.

Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act") and the rules made thereunder provide power to the Central Government to issue directions for blocking of access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource 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. Following the procedures and safeguards prescribed under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, the Central Government issues directions for blocking after receiving the request from the nodal officer of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Law Enforcement Agencies who, after analyzing suspicious applications based on the complaints, received from various sources, send such request to the Designated Officer in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under section 69A of the IT Act.

With regards to indigenous Apps, it is informed that the Government is creating an overall digital innovation and economy ecosystem in India with a goal at becoming trillion dollar digital economy by 2026. Several Indian start-ups are being set up in innovating, growing and investing in developing indigenous apps.
