GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2344
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022

MANDATORY VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

2344. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

(a) whether Government is seized of the menace of fake and bot social media accounts which have become a tool for blackmail, embarrassment and harassment; and

(b) whether Government is taking steps to make mandatory verification (as in the case of bank accounts) of all social media accounts (on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp,
among others) failing which, it shall be made a punishable offence?

ANSWER

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

(a): Government's objectives are aimed at ensuring Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable internet for its users.The Government is aware of the risk and danger posed by growing phenomena of misinformation, bots, criminality and users harms in general.

(b): To ensuring Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable internet for its users, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelinesand Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules 2021"). As per the rule 4(7) of the said Rules, the significant social media intermediaries shall enable users to voluntarily verify their accounts and such users' accounts shall be provided with visible marks of verification.

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