

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1550**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021

**IMPACT OF NEW INTERMEDIARY GUIDELINES**

**1550. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:**

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

- (a) whether Government has implemented new Intermediary Guidelines under Information Technology Act, 2000 to allegedly avoid censure of Government's works and policies on social media and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that the said rules will likely impede social media platforms in providing free, fair and unbiased reformation to citizens and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether such rules will violate the fundamental and democratic rights of the citizens and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the details of actions taken under the said rules of IT Act till date?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 superseding the erstwhile Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011. These Rules are as a result of public consultations comments and suggestions received during stakeholders' meetings and are used in bringing accountability of these intermediaries to their users. The Rules also prescribe additional due diligence to be followed by significant social media intermediaries.

(b): Freedom of speech and expression is the constitutionally guaranteed right under Article 19(1).

(c): Right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21. Neither the IT Act nor the above said Rules contravene any of these fundamental rights.

(d): The action is taken by Appropriate Governments and Law Enforcement Agencies.

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