

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2345
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022

ANONYMOUS ACCOUNTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

2345. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study on the menace of anonymous accounts on social media indulging in cyber crimes, spreading misinformation and hateful content, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, whether Government intends to conduct such a study; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to protect cyberspace in the country from anonymity and abuse thereof, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): No Sir.

(c): The Government is committed to Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable internet for its users in India. The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules, 2021") under the Information Technology Act (IT Act), 2000 which require that the intermediaries follow certain due diligence as prescribed.

For the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order, or of incitement to an offence relating to the above, or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material, the above said Rules provide for identification of the first originator of the information on Significant Social Media Intermediary (SSMI) primarily providing messaging service. These Rules also mandate that SSIMs need to enable users to voluntarily verify their accounts and such users' accounts.

CERT-In has also issued directions under the provisions of sub-section (6) of section 70B of the IT Act, 2000 which cover aspects relating to subscriber/customer registrations details by Data centers, Virtual Private Server (VPS) providers, VPN Service providers, etc.
