

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1131
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

IDENTITY LINKED TO SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT

1131. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to link a Government identity to a social media accounts like Facebook, Twitter, etc in order to validate the accounts and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of cases registered related to social media crimes and the number of cases that have been given response; and
- (c) the details of the current grievance redressal mechanisms that are available within the social media platforms, that is regulated by law?

ANSWER

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

(a): There is no proposal with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for linking any identity card issued by the Government with social media accounts of individuals. Anonymous use of social media intermediaries continues.

(b): No specific data base related to social media crime is maintained by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB). However, as per data maintained by the NCRB, a total of 85, 149 and 123 cases of fake profile for cybercrimes were registered during the year 2019, 2020 and 2021, respectively. Latest data pertains to the year 2021.

(c): The Government's objective is to ensure an Open, Safe, Trusted and Accountable Internet for Digital Nagrik.

To ensure that, the Central Government, in exercise of powers conferred by the Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act"), has notified the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules, 2021"). These new rules cast specific obligation on intermediaries which includes to have grievance redressal mechanism. Further, in case an intermediary is a significant social media intermediary (an intermediary having more than 50 lakh registered users in India), to additionally observe due diligence in terms of appointing, in India, a Grievance Officer, a Chief Compliance Officer and a nodal contact person for 24x7 coordination with law enforcement agencies.

Keeping in view complaints regarding action or inaction, on the part of the social media intermediaries and other intermediaries on user grievances regarding objectionable content or suspension of their accounts, the Central Government has also established three GACs (Grievance Appellate Committees), as provided for in the said IT Rules, 2021 to enable users to appeal against the decisions taken by Grievance Officer of intermediaries on user complaints.
