

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1995
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2021

REGULARISATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1995 SHRI A. VIJAYA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to regularise social media in the country;
- (b) whether Government is aware that many of the micro blog/social media are funded by foreign investors to spread anti-establishment activities;
- (c) if so, the action taken to ban such blog/social media; and
- (d) if so, whether China is vigorously funding Indian social media for such anti-establishment act?

ANSWER

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

(a): Government policies are aimed to ensure free, fair, open and trusted Internet and intermediaries are allowed to operate in the country as long as they follow applicable laws including Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and Rules.

(b): Due to the open cross-border nature of Internet, many intermediaries which are owned by foreign investors can be providing services in India. However, they have to comply with the IT Act and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Whenever a violation is reported, the Ministry takes appropriate action.

Government blocks access of any information under section 69A of the IT Act in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

(c): MeitY has invoked the provisions of section 69A of the IT Act to block certain Apps following the due process specified in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rule, 2009.

(d): It has been the endeavour of the Government to put in place an enabling and investor friendly policy environment in the country. As per extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, 100% FDI is allowed in IT sector under automatic route (Except subsequent to PN 3 dated 17.04.2020 FDI from countries sharing land border with India are being regulated through Government Route) subject to applicable laws/ regulations; security and other conditions.
