

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 936
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 8.2.2023

AMENDMENT IN IT RULES

936. SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI:
SHRI B.B. PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently notified the amendment in Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 for open safe trusted and accountable internet;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these rules mark new partnership between the Government and intermediaries towards making and maintaining internet safe and trusted for all Indians across the country especially in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring an Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable Internet for its users across the country, including in Uttar Pradesh. With the expansion of the Internet and more and more Indians coming online, for achieving this aim and protecting the rights of users, the Central Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules, 2021"). As Internet and the issues in the cyberspace continue to evolve, the IT Rules, 2021 have been further amended in October, 2022.

The current IT Rules, 2021 rules cast enhanced obligations on intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, to observe due diligence and provide that if they fail to observe such due diligence, they shall no longer be exempt from their liability under law for third-party information or data or communication link hosted by them. The enhanced due diligence required includes respecting the rights accorded to citizens under the Constitution, including in articles 14 (equality before law), 19 (protection of rights regarding freedom of speech, etc.) and 21 (protection of life and personal liberty), while discharging their duties.

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.
