

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 725
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2021

STEPS FOR PREVENTION OF MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

725. SMT. KANTA KARDAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any concrete and effective steps to prevent the misuse of social media by criminals and anti-national elements; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Government is well aware of the risk and danger posed by growing phenomena of misuse of various media platform and the user harms caused as a consequence, by criminals and anti-national elements. Government has taken appropriate steps to address the challenges of misuse of social media. These, inter alia, include:

- (i) Government, on 25.02.2021 has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. These Rules require that the intermediaries follow certain due diligence as prescribed. They are required to publish privacy policy and terms of use of their platform. They are required to inform their users not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, and unlawful in any way. They are also required to remove any unlawful content relatable to Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India or violative of any law for the time being in force as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by appropriate government or its agency.
- (ii) Government takes action under section 69A of IT Act to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

- (iii) Further, section 79 of the IT Act provides that intermediaries are required to disable/remove unlawful content relatable to Article 19(2) of the Constitution either through a court order or on being notified by appropriate government or its agency.
