

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1989
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2021

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM

1989 DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that some social media platforms are allegedly trying to destroy country's democracy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has written any letter to the social media management authorities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to ban any social media platform in the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b): Indian democracy has its bedrock in its Constitution and constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights for every citizen. No social media platform or any other intermediary can destroy our democracy. Our democracy can withstand any test and challenge posed to it. It has, however, been noticed that some users do misuse social media platforms to create hate and ill-will amongst people of our country. Government receives various grievances from users about this type of hate content and responds to them in an appropriate way.
- (c): Government regularly interacts with social media intermediaries on various issues including issuing advisories to make these intermediaries safe and accountable to users.
- (d) : Under the provision of section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, Government blocks malicious online content, 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. At present, Government has no plan to block any social media platform in the country.
