

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*254**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.03.2017

**MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO SPREAD HATE CAMPAIGN**

**\*254            SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:**

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

- (a) whether it is fact that social media is increasingly used to hurt religious sentiments and create communal polarization in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has identified such accounts spreading the hate campaign; and
- (c) whether any action has been taken against such people and accounts, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED  
QUESTION \*254 FOR 24.03.2017 REGARDING MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA  
TO SPREAD HATE CAMPAIGN**

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(a): Instances of misuse of social media to hurt religious sentiments and create communal hatred in the country have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. Such behaviour in cyberspace is facilitated by virtual and borderless nature of the technology.

(b) and (c): Whenever any inflammatory harmful and hateful content on various social networking sites is brought to the notice of the Government by the Security/Intelligence Agencies, action under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 is taken 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. On a case-to-case basis, the concerned social media platforms are also approached for removal/blocking of specifics.

The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. Also the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, Publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

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