

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 590
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.09.2020

IMPARTIAL PRESENTATION OF DATA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

590. SHRI NISITH PRAMANIK:

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

- (a) whether the social media giants like Facebook, Google and similar multinational corporates have assured the Government of devising appropriate mechanism for impartial presentation of information on their sites and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any step to make these corporates sensitive to the sentiments of the people of the country, particularly those voicing their idea of nationalism and patriotism on these sites
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATES FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) to (c) : Social media platforms are intermediaries in the context of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. In order to avail exemption from liability, they are required to follow certain due diligence including that they do not select or modify the transmission of information. They are expected to follow the due diligence as specified in the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act. This includes publishing of terms and conditions of their platform and privacy policy. They are also expected to remove any unlawful content relatable to Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by appropriate government or its agency.

Minister for Electronics and Information Technology has already apprised Facebook on the need to maintain impartiality and compliance to these policies. No separate communication has been sent to other social media platforms.
