

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1738
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.12.2021

OBJECTIONABLE CONTENT

1738. SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked Internet firms including Google, Youtube etc., to remove objectionable pictures of women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of action taken thereon?

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. The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides for a criminal penalty for publishing or transmitting obscene and sexually explicit content.

Further, keeping with the mission of having an Open, Safe& Trusted and Accountable Internet, Government has published, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the IT Act. These Rules have appropriate provisions to deal with such user harms/ menace. As per the said Rules, the intermediaries 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.

As per provisions of rule 3(2)(b) of these Rules, the intermediary shall remove any such objectionable content against women within twenty-four hours from the receipt of complaint made by the individual impacted person or any person on his behalf.

Intermediaries 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.

(c): The Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) at Centre and States take appropriate legal action as per provisions of law and when appropriate, request intermediaries including social media platforms like Google and Youtube to remove content violative of any law.
