

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *413
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 29.03.2023

TAKEDOWN REQUEST

***413. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of takedown requests made under section 69A of the IT Act since 2018;
- (b) whether the Government has notified the list of authorities that can order intermediaries to take down content and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of notices given to persons, i.e., originator of the content and intermediaries to take down content; and
- (d) the total number of takedown requests received from nodal officers in various Ministries?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. *413 FOR 29-03-2023 REGRADING TAKEDOWN REQUEST**

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(a): The section 69A of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides power to government to issue directions for blocking for access of information if it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interest of sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for inciting cognizable offence relating to above. The Government follows due process as envisaged in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009. Since 2018 till 15th March 2023, blocking directions have been given for 30,310 URLs. These include social media URLs, accounts, channels, pages, apps, web pages, websites etc.

(b): Yes Sir. “The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009” identifies the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and “The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021” identifies Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to issue blocking directions if the information infringes the provisions specified in the section 69A of IT Act, 2000.

(c) and (d): Since 2018 till 15th March 2023, the Committee constituted under Rule 7 and Rule 14 of the aforesaid Rules respectively, examined a total of 41,172 URLs that were received from nodal officers in various ministries, departments, States for blocking under section 69A of IT Act 2000. Notices were given to respective intermediaries for all such URLs, 48 hours prior to the meeting. In the case of websites, notices are given based on the contact details published on their website.
