

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1697
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 09.03.2018

MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1697 SHRI HARIVANSH:

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

- (a) whether it is fact that social media is increasingly being used to spread rumours and defame public personalities;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that social media is being used to disturb peace and spread terror propaganda; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken to address the problem and to have an effective monitoring of social media?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Some instances of use of social media being misused for posting objectionable contents, defame public personalities and to spread terror propaganda have come to the notice of the Government.

(c): The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. 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.

Further, Government takes action under section 69A of IT Act for blocking of websites/webpages with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders. Section 69A of the IT Act empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of - (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States (v) public order or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

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