

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1996
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2021

FIR AGAINST TWITTER

1996 DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

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

- (a) whether organizations like Twitter have acted against the rules in recent times;
- (b) if so, action taken against it so far by Government;
- (c) whether an FIR has been lodged against Twitter;
- (d) whether any action of Twitter has been found in anti-national work; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b) : The social media platforms like Twitter are intermediaries as defined in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. In order to ensure accountability of social media platforms to users and enhanced user safety, Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 which have become fully effective from 26th May, 2021. On that day, Twitter was non-compliant as it failed to appoint Chief Compliance Officer, Nodal Contact Person and a Resident Grievance Officer as mandated in the Rules. Subsequently, they appointed Chief Compliance Officer and a Resident Grievance Officer as a contingent arrangement. Twitter has also not designated a Nodal contact person and the matter is sub-judice.

In case of non-compliance, rule 7 of the above said Rules becomes applicable and the intermediaries are liable to lose their exemption under section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

(c): “Police” and “Public Order” are State subjects. Complaints reported against Twitter are dealt by the respective Law Enforcement Authorities of States/Union Territories. MeitY is not involved in filing of any FIR against Twitter.

(d) and (e): No such action of Twitter is brought to the notice of MeitY.
