GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1360
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.09.2020

MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

1360   SHRI C.M. RAMESH:

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

(a) whether to stop misuse of social media platforms, Government propose to formulate any policy in this regard, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of cases of misuse of social media platforms that have come to the notice of Government during the last two years, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for misuse of cyberspace and social media platforms for criminal activities is a global issue.

The social media platforms are intermediaries as defined in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. Section 79 of the Act and the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 require 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, inter alia, grossly harmful, harassing, defamatory, libelous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically objectionable, disparaging, or otherwise unlawful in any manner.   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.

(b):   Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology ordered blocking of 2799 and 3655 webpages/URLs/Accounts in the years 2018 and 2019 respectively under section 69A of the IT Act, 2000.

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