

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2538

TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021

WATCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

2538. SHRI A. RAJA:

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

- (a) whether Government has constituted several committees in the past to suggest a framework to keep a watch on social media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the information about the recommendations of the committees;
- (c) in view of the large scale misuse of social media and propagating alleged anti-India feelings, whether the Government has issued any rules and regulations which recently, to be followed by the social media groups;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number and details of social media groups who have already complied with the aforementioned rules and consequently appointed nodal officers for addressing the complaints?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): No, Sir. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has not constituted any such committee.

(c) and (d): 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 under the IT Act that specifies the due diligence to be followed by all intermediaries including the significant social media intermediaries. These Rules empower users and make the intermediary platform accountable for timely redressal of grievances received. They are also expected to remove any unlawful content as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by the Appropriate Government or its authorised agency.

(e): Some Significant Social Media Intermediaries including Facebook, Google (YouTube), Twitter, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, ShareChat, Telegram, Koo, MyGov etc., have informed this Ministry about their commitment to comply and/or compliance with the above said Rules. They have also shared the list of key officers for addressing the complaints. However, MeitY

does not keep a register of intermediaries including social media platforms as the same is not mandated in the IT Act or the Rules therein.
