

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 385
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2021

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION VIA TWITTER

385. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government the statement of micro blogging platform Twitter that there is a potential threat to the freedom of expression in India;
- (b) if so, the response of Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government has taken note of the statement of Twitter against the cases filed by Delhi Police against their employees; and
- (d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

ANSWER

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

- (a): As per media report published on 27th May 2021, Twitter in a statement had expressed concerns over potential threat to freedom of expression and safety of its employees in India.
- (b): Freedom of speech and expression is a constitutionally guaranteed Fundamental Right to citizens under Article 19(1) with restrictions as stated in Article 19(2). These Fundamental Rights cannot be infringed by anybody. The statement of Twitter was possibly an effort to divert the attention from the non-compliance to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 and Indian laws at that stage.
- (c) and (d): Government is committed to the growth of a vibrant technology and Internet ecosystem in the country. Government has also assured that representatives of social media platforms including Twitter remain safe in India and there is no threat to their personal safety and security.
