

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2700
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.03.2021

PRIVACY POLICY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

2700. SADHVI PRAGYA SINGH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any privacy policy for social media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any privacy policy for social media platforms like WhatsApp; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Social media platforms are body corporate in the context of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. Section 43A of the Act and the Information Technology (Reasonable security practices and procedures and sensitive personal data or information) Rules, 2011 notified under this section provide for safeguards for sensitive personal data or information collected by a body corporate. The Rules mandate that body corporate including social media platforms must provide policy for privacy and disclosure of such information, so that user is well aware of the type of personal data collected, purpose of collection and usage of such information. The rules also specify mode of collection of information, disclosure of information, transfer of information, etc.

Further, Government has already moved the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 in Parliament which is presently under the consideration of the Joint Committee of Parliament. The Bill provides for safeguards of privacy and interests of the Indian citizens.

Any privacy policy of a social media intermediary including WhatsApp must conform to the existing provisions of the law.
