

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1339**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.09.2020

**REGULATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

**1339 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:**

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

Whether there is a plan to regulate social media, which has become a platform to spread fake news and hatred, putting peace and harmony at risk?

**ANSWER**

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

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 to misuse the social media to spread fake news and hatred, putting peace and harmony at risk is a global issue. Government is committed to freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution of India.

The social media sites, for user generated content hosted and transmitted on their platform, are Intermediaries as defined in the Information Technology Act, 2000 and they have to follow certain due diligence specified in the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act. The intermediaries are required to 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.

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