

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2000**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2021

**IDENTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL MEDIA INTERMEDIARIES**

**2000 DR. AMAR PATNAIK:**

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

- (a) whether Government has identified entities that can qualify as ‘Significant Social Media Intermediaries’ (SSMIs) under the recently notified Intermediaries Guidelines, 2021;
- (b) whether Government has written to all SSMIs asking for the compliance status of the obligations under these guidelines, a list of the SSMIs from whom Government has sought compliance status information;
- (c) whether Apple Inc. is also identified as an SSMI by Government;
- (d) whether Government has taken any penal steps against any SSMIs for non-compliance with the guidelines, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): Through a notification dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Central Government has specified fifty lakh registered users in India as the threshold for a social media intermediary to be considered a Significant Social Media Intermediary (SSMI).

(b) and (c): Government approached a few likely SSMIs to confirm their status as SSMI and their status of compliance with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. This included intermediaries including Facebook, Google (Youtube), Twitter, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, Sharechat, Telegram, Koo, etc. The list is not exhaustive as the intermediaries or the SSMI can establish and operate from anywhere in the world and there is no requirement for intermediaries to register themselves under existing IT laws/rules.

(d) and (e): All the intermediaries providing services in India are required to comply with the above said Rules. In case of non-compliance, rule 7 of these Rules becomes applicable and the intermediaries are liable to lose their exemption under section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

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