

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4763
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.03.2021

BLOCKED ACCOUNTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

4763. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
DR. AMAR SINGH:
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) the number of user accounts on social media platforms including Twitter, blocked under Section 69A of the IT Act during each of the last six years;
- (b) the reasons for passing orders to block Twitter accounts of organisations like Kisan Ekta Morcha and The Caravan magazine in the month of February, 2021;
- (c) whether these accounts were chosen by the Government for their support to the ongoing farmers' protests and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether a review committee undertook a review of the blocking orders, as provided for in the Rules framed under the aforementioned Act and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government has directed for blocking of 500, 633, 1385, 2799, 3635 and 9849 number of URLs during the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively under the provision of section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

(b) and (c): The accounts were blocked on the grounds of public order, following the process specified in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, notified under section 69A of the IT Act and on the requests received from nodal officers authorised for sending such requests.

(d): The Review Committee has not reviewed the specific cases as of now.
