

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION 1770
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2022

MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

1770. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI AJAY NISHAD:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government tracks and monitors all apps which have designed to manipulate social media platforms with the intent to spread hate speech, misinformation and divisive language along with the details of increased instances during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government intends to investigate the app which are being used to hijack twitter's trending section and to harass people online thereto;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of complaints filed regarding misuse of social media platforms so far and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government intends to take any action against app providers which redirect readers on online news platforms with fake news websites therein; and
- (f) if so, the details of act thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Government is committed to Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable Internet for users. Government is aware of the risk and danger posed by growing phenomena of dissemination of wrong and hateful information through some social media platforms. This Ministry does not track and monitor Apps or content appearing on social media platforms or online App stores unless they are explicitly reported to this ministry under section 69A provisions of the IT Act. There are recent efforts by the Government to strengthen grievance reporting or redressal which mean to expand reporting of illegal content or conduct. Further, Law enforcement agencies regularly monitor any such malicious and objectionable contents online and take appropriate legal action as per the law.

(c) and (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. States/UTs are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). The Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) at Centre and States take appropriate legal action as per provisions of law and when appropriate.

(e) and (f): The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 provide for issue notice for removal of any unlawful information including unlawful App violative of any law for the time being in force if the request is made by an appropriate Government or its authorised agency.
