

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3375**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2021

**STEPS TAKEN TO CURB FACEBOOK AND FOREIGN SOCIAL MEDIA**

**3375. SHRI A.VIJAYAKUMAR:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of steps taken to develop/encourage indigenous app like WhatsApp and other Microsoft software;
- (b) whether any measures has been taken to curb Facebook and other foreign social media that have installed servers in the country;;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;

**ANSWER**

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

(a): In order to encourage indigenous apps, Government of India launched the AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge on July 4, 2020. The Challenge saw participation from **6,940 tech entrepreneurs** and start-ups across the country, that included not only the metro cities but also Tier II & Tier III towns. The entries were in 9 different categories namely Business, eLearning, Entertainment, Games, Health, News, Office and Work from Home, Others and Social. The innovative Apps were evaluated on parameters of robustness, scalability, security and ease of use. 24 best Apps were declared as winners of the App Innovation Challenge under different categories.

(b) and (c): It is not the intent of the Government to curb Facebook or any other Social Media Apps. The objective has been to ensure compliance to all Indian Laws and Regulations and to prevent misuse and abuse. To further strengthen this and in order to empower Indian citizens, the Government of India has amended and notified new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 in February 2021 and is constantly working to create safer spaces in Social Media for Indian users..

(d): Does not arise.

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