

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2082
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.07.2019

LEGISLATION FOR REGULATING SOCIAL MEDIA

2082. SHRI R K SINHA:

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

whether Government is considering to bring a legislation for regulating social media companies to prevent them from curbing the rights of lakhs of persons supporting nationalistic ideology and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

No Sir. Government is fully committed to freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution of India. Government does not monitor content appearing on Internet. Law enforcement agencies take appropriate action regarding posting of malicious content on Internet on specific case-to-case basis.

Social media platforms are intermediaries as defined in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. Section 79 of the IT Act provides that intermediaries are required to disable/remove unlawful content on being notified by appropriate government or its agency. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under this section require that the intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, and unlawful in any way.
