

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2725
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.07.2019

BAN ON MOBILE APPS

2725. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that several mobile applications like TikTok are reportedly deteriorating our culture and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether it has come to the cognizance of the Government that the said application is having adverse effects on children and that girls and women have been killed in many families and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban such vulgar and indecent applications; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government is aware of some media report about the impact of mobile applications. TikTok App is an intermediary as per the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. The IT Act has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. Section 79 of the Act and The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 require that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is, inter alia, grossly harmful, harassing, defamatory, libellous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically objectionable, disparaging, or otherwise unlawful in any manner. The Government will examine and take suitable action.

They are also expected to remove any unlawful activity relatable to Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by an appropriate government or its agency. In addition, Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of-

(i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States, (v) public order, or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above following due process as defined under the The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules , 2009.

A writ petition (Civil) No. No.7855 of 2019 has been filed in Hon'ble High Court of Madras (Madurai Bench). The matter is sub-judice.
