GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 546
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.09.2020

BAN ON APPs FROM CHINA

546   SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:
        SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV:

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

(a) the details of Apps from China that Government has banned;
(b) the impact of the same on India;
(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to help, financially or otherwise, domestic App developers to replace the banned Apps;
(d) whether Government is aware that many ordinary Indians who have become social media stars and depending on some of such Apps for their livelihood have been impacted the most; and
(e) whether there is any plan to help such people?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Government has blocked 224 mobile applications under the provisions of section 69A of Information Technology Act, 2000 and rules notified under this section. These mobile applications were blocked primarily in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of State and defence of India. Due to national security concerns linkage with any country may not be disclosed in public domain.

(c): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)-Niti Aayog had invited Indian entrepreneurs and start-ups for Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge to give a push to India App ecosystem by identifying the best Indian Apps that have the potential to become global leaders in their field. Total 6,940 entries were received under Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation challenge. Best 24 Apps were selected in 9 categories- Business (Fintech and Agritech), e-Learning, Entertainment, Games, Health, News, Office and Work from Home, and Others.

(d) and (e): There are media reports that users are adopting alternate mobile Apps / platform that are available and also provide opportunity to develop India based apps.

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