

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.\*76**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22-12-2017

**STEPS TO CURB MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

**\*76      DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:**

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

- (a) whether Government is taking any steps to curb the misuse of social media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any laws therefor; and
- (d) whether the freedom of expression has been ensured in implementation of those statutes?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED  
QUESTION NO.\*76 FOR 22.12.2017 REGARDING STEPS TO CURB MISUSE  
OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

.....

- (a) to (c): There are legal provisions to curb misuse of social media:
- (i) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides for punishment for publishing or transmitting objectionable contents through following provisions:
- Section 66E: Punishment for violation of privacy
  - Section 67: Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form.
  - Section 67A: Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form
  - Section 67B: Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form.
- (i) Government also takes action under section 69A of IT Act for blocking of websites/webpages with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders. Section 69A of the IT Act empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of 1) sovereignty and integrity of India, 2) defence of India, 3) security of the State, 4) friendly relations with foreign States 5) public order or 6) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.
- (ii) Further, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act requires 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 harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.
- (iii) In addition, Indian Penal Code 1860 provides punishment for Stalking (section 354D) and voyeurism (Section 354C).
- (d): The provisions for action against misuse of social media under various provisions of the Information Technology Act are in line with Article 19(2) of Constitution of India which ensures Right to freedom of expression.

\*\*\*\*\*

