

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3258
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018**

REGULATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA

3258. SHRI C.M. RAMESH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any plans before the Ministry to regulate social media like WhatsApp, Facebook, Skype, etc., as they are sometimes crossing the limits;
- (b) the reaction of the Ministry to the view of Over-the-Top (OTT) services that there is no privacy aspect involved in the social media apps; and
- (c) the status of progress of the case in the Supreme Court?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued a consultation paper on 27-03-2015 regarding "Regulatory Framework for Over-the-Top (OTT) Services". The paper focused on possible regulatory and licensing framework for OTT services along with related safety, security and privacy concerns. TRAI is yet to submit its recommendations in this regard to Department of Telecommunications.

(c) A Special Leave Petition (SLP) (Civil) has been filed by Shri Karmanya Singh Sareen & Anr. against Union of India & Ors. regarding amended privacy policy of WhatsApp. The SLP is being heard by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India and the last hearing was held on 06-09-2017.
