

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *102**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH DECEMBER, 2018/AGRAHAYANA 28, 1940 (SAKA)

ACTION TAKEN FOR BLOCKING OBJECTIONABLE CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

***102. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been noticed that action taken by social media platform for removing/blocking of objectionable/ unlawful content has been slow in some cases and compliance for removal of unlawful content has been only about 60 per cent even where orders have been issued by the competent authorities after following due process of law;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has asked them to ensure 24x7 mechanism for disposal of requisition of law enforcement agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *102 TO BE ANSWER ON 19-12-2018.

(a): Police and public order are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. Law enforcement agencies take appropriate action as per the law for blocking/removal of objectionable/unlawful contents on social media as per due process of Law. Central database of such records is not maintained. In addition, Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, read with the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public), Rules 2009 empowers the Central Government or any of its officer, specifically authorized by it, to issue directions to any social media platform to block for access by the public or cause to be blocked for access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource, if satisfied, that it is necessary or expedient so to do, in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. The number of URLs blocked/removed by the social media platforms during the last four years under this provision are as under:

| Year | No. of content blocked/removed |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2015 | 587 |
| 2016 | 964 |
| 2017 | 1329 |
| 2018 (upto 31.11.2018) | 2388 |

The compliance rate of major social media platforms has increased from approximately 72% in 2017 to approximately 83% in 2018 due to sustained efforts made by the Central Government.

(b) & (c): Yes Sir. Ministry of Home Affairs has held a series of meetings with various social media platforms. It has asked them to set up 24x7 mechanism for prompt disposal of the requests of law enforcement agencies, appointment of India based contact officers, etc. so as to ensure further improvement in compliance.
