

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 687
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.02.2019

BLOCKING OF WEBSITES

687. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

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

- (a) the details and the list of Government requests to block Indian websites in the past four years;
- (b) the number of websites which were blocked against the total number of requests made and the details thereof;
- (c) the details of news websites blocked in the past four years; and
- (d) the reasons for blocking of websites?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) to (d): Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 empowers Government to block information from public access under specific conditions of : (i) interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States or (v) public order or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above. The detailed process for blocking of websites/URLs is notified through Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009. Blocking is either done in compliance of a court order or in pursuance of the recommendation of an inter-ministerial committee specified under the said Rules.

The number of request received for websites/URL blocking under the provisions of section 69A of the IT Act, as well as number of websites/URLs blocked through the recommendation of the committee constituted under the said Rules is as follows :

Year	Request Received for blocking of websites/URLs	Directions issued for blocking
2015	571	500
2016	940	633
2017	2025	1385
2018	4192	2799

Further, as per information provided by Department of Telecom (DoT), in compliance of the direction of various Honourable Courts, DoT has issued instructions to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for blocking of 8459 URLs/websites since 1.1.2016.

In addition, DoT also instructed ISPs to block 6631 websites (“Worst of” list) of online child sexual abuse material as provided by Central Bureau of Investigation as the national agency of Interpol.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) issues direction for blocking under provisions of section 69A of the IT Act 2000 only and no specific details of news channel blocking is available with MeitY.
