

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1827
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

FAKE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS.

1827. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of social media channels blocked in the country during the last two years till date which were involved in spreading fake news;

(b) the number of such channels at present which are yet to be blocked by Government, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government against the channels spreading fake news?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 inter alia empowers the Central Government to issue directions for blocking for public access of information on a computer resource in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defense of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable relating to the above. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued directions for blocking of 56 YouTube based news channels and their social media accounts for public access during 2021-2022 in accordance with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 notified under Information Technology Act, 2000.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) has informed that the number of URLs, consisting of web pages, websites, pages on social media accounts, etc., blocked by it under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 during last two years is 15,945.
