

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1849
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022**

FALSE NEWS UNDER IT RULES OF 2021

1849. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the steps Government has taken to prosecute social media offenders who propagate false news as defined in Rule 3(1)(b)(x) of the IT Rules of 2021;**
- (b) the number of instances where social media intermediaries have exercised due diligence and filtered, edited or blocked materials and items;**
- (c) the number of instructions Government has or agencies thereof have issued to them under these provisions; and**
- (d) the authority that monitors the unending streams of false news that, nevertheless, inundate the social media?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) To (d): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has informed that Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 have been issued with the aim of an open, safe, trusted and accountable internet and protecting the rights of users. As per the rules, an intermediary shall inform its rules and regulations, privacy policy and user agreement to the user and shall make reasonable efforts to cause the user not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any information that deceives or misleads the addressee about the origin of the message, or knowingly and intentionally communicate any misinformation or information which is patently false and untrue or misleading in nature.

Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for blocking of content over digital media for carrying content in the interest of the sovereignty or 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.

Under the provisions of Part-II of IT Rules, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued directions for blocking of 1643 user generated URLs, including webpages, websites, posts/accounts on social media platforms etc., from 2021 to October, 2022 for access of information by public under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 as per the procedure laid down in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.

Under the provisions of Part-III of IT Rules, 2021 the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued directions for blocking from public access of 105 YouTube channels, 45 videos and 32 social media accounts/posts/Apps/websites/podcasts under these provisions for carrying content referred to in Section 69 A of Information Technology Act, 2000 from December, 2021 till date.

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