

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *185
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 17.03.2023

YOU TUBE CHANNELS BLOCKED

***185#: DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of YouTube channels blocked as on date by Government for spreading propaganda related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order;
- (b) the number of Indian and foreign channels that have been blocked;
- (c) whether these YouTube channels were also used to post fake news on various topics like Indian Armed Forces and Jammu and Kashmir etc; and
- (d) whether Government is formulating any plan to deal with this kind of problem so that such misleading channels can be completely curbed?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION
NO. *185 FOR 17-03-2023 REGRADING YOUTUBE CHANNELS BLOCKED**

(a) and (b): The Government has issued directions for blocking of 4999 YouTube URLs under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009 that includes individual videos and complete channels belonging to users from India and foreign countries. Separate data in respect of Indian and foreign channels is not maintained.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): To help achieve the aim of making Internet Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable and to regulate the intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, and in exercise of powers conferred by the Information Technology Act, 2000 the Central Government has made the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. These rules cast specific obligation on intermediaries to observe diligence and provide that if they fail to observe such diligence, they shall no longer be exempt from their liability under law for third-party information or data or communication link hosted by them. Such diligence includes the following:

1. To inform the said rules to their users to make reasonable efforts to cause the users not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share, among others, information, including information published by digital media on the intermediary platform or such information shared on it by other users, which threatens the unity, integrity, defence, security or sovereignty of India or public order, or prevents investigation, or violates any law;
2. To not host, store or publish any information, including information published by digital media on the intermediary platform or such information shared on it by other users, which is unlawful, prohibited by law in relation to India's sovereignty and integrity, security of the State, public order, contempt of court etc., upon receiving actual knowledge in the form of an order by a court or being notified by the government under the provisions of the IT Act;
3. Upon receipt of an order from a lawfully authorized government agency, to provide information or assistance for prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution under law, or for cyber security incidents;
4. To have in place a grievance redressal machinery, and resolve complaints of violation of the rules within 72 hours of being reported;
5. In case an intermediary is a significant social media intermediary (i.e., an intermediary having more than 50 lakh registered users in India), to additionally observe diligence in terms of appointing a Chief Compliance Officer, a nodal contact person for 24x7 coordination with law enforcement agencies and a Resident Grievance Officer, publishing monthly compliance reports, etc.
6. Three Grievance Appellate Committees have been established to allow users to appeal against the decisions taken by intermediaries on user complaints. However, users will always have the right to approach courts for any remedy.
