GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *91
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2023

BAN ON CHINESE APPS

***91. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:**

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

(a)   the number of Chinese applications currently under usage and download in India after the ban of a total 54 Chinese apps, the impact assessment report of the aforementioned ban;
(b)   whether Government is aware that multiple Chinese applications are currently under usage and are already more popular than multiple Indian applications;
(c)   whether some Chinese applications currently functioning have the same parent company as their sister applications, which have been banned;
(d)   the reasons for not banning Chinese technology companies and merely prohibiting/banning Chinese applications; and
(e)   whether the continuity of aforementioned functioning Chinese applications pose no threat to data protection?

ANSWER

MINISTER   FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *91 FOR 10.02.2023**

REGARDING BAN ON CHINESE APPS

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(a) to (e): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) does not maintain database relating to applications including Chinese applications that are under usage in India. MeitY is empowered to issue directions for blocking for access of information by public under provision of section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and the rules thereby, namely, the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009. The section 69A provides power to government to issue directions for blocking if it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interest of sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for inciting cognizable offence relating to above. In line with the objective of the Government to ensure an Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable Internet for all its citizens, such directions are issued after receiving the request from the nodal officer of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Law Enforcement Agencies who send such request to MeitY after analyzing suspicious applications based on the complaints they received from various sources.

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