

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2812**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 24.03.2023

**WEBSITES BLOCKED IN INDIA**

**2812:           SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:**  
**SHRI ELAMARAN KAREEM:**

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

- (a) the details of websites blocked in India between 2014-15 to 2022-23, year-wise and category-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that, according to the SFLC.in Website Blocking Report, 55,605 websites have been blocked in India from 2014 to September 2022;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has indeed violated the Constitutionally enshrined Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression while website blocking;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps being taken by Government to protect the constitutionally enshrined Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) does not maintain details of websites blocked in India.

(b) and (c): Government is not having any such records as stated in SFLC.in Website Blocking Report.

(d), (e) and (f): No Sir. The Government blocks only those websites which infringe the provisions specified in section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and based on the directions of the Hon'ble Courts.

The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring an Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable Internet for its users across the country. With the expansion of the Internet and more and more Indians coming online, for achieving this aim and protecting the rights of users, the Central Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules, 2021"). As Internet and the issues in the cyberspace continue to evolve, the IT Rules, 2021 have been further amended in October, 2022.

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