

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 732
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.12.2023

REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES OF INTERMEDIARIES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

732. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and details of directions/orders issued by Government during last five years, under Information Technology Act, 2000 and Rules made thereunder, directing intermediaries and digital media to delete, modify or block any content, information, data or communication link;
- (b) the details thereof, year-wise and organization-wise;
- (c) the number and details of directions/orders issued by Government during last five years directing the social media platforms, including Twitter and Facebook, to block or remove posts, entire accounts or topic hash tags; and
- (d) the details thereof, year-wise and organization-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring that the internet in India is open, safe, trusted and accountable to all users. Accordingly, the Government issues lawful directions for blocking for access of information by public under section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 which provides power to government to issue such directions 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. The details of directions issued for blocking of URLs by Government is as tabulated in the Annexure:

Annexure

| Year | Facebook | Instagram | X-Corp (Twitter) | YouTube | Others | Total |
|-------|----------|-----------|---------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| 2018 | 1555 | 379 | 224 | 161 | 480 | 2799 |
| 2019 | 2049 | 75 | 1041 | 409 | 61 | 3635 |
| 2020 | 1717 | 1273 | 2731 | 2175 | 1953 | 9849 |
| 2021 | 1082 | 464 | 2851 | 1141 | 580 | 6118 |
| 2022 | 1750 | 359 | 3423 | 939 | 464 | 6935 |
| 2023* | 2044 | 473 | 3390 | 934 | 661 | 7502 |

*Till October 2023
