

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 716**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024**

**BLOCKING OF YOUTUBE CHANNELS**

**716 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether Government had blocked many YouTube channels in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether spreading false and unverified information were the reasons for the blocking of the said channels; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the incidents which prompted Government to block these channels?**

## **ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND  
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH  
THAKUR):**

**(a) to (d): The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rule, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) under Information Technology Act which, inter-alia, provides for adherence of Code of Ethics by publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms) and a three tier grievance redressal mechanism for addressing grievances relating to violation of the Code.**

**Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has, since December, 2021, issued directions for blocking from public access 125 YouTube based news channels under the provisions of Part-III of IT Rules, 2021 for publishing content not found to be in the interest of sovereignty and 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 the above, including fake news, in accordance with the provisions of Section 69 A of Information Technology Act , 2000.**

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