

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 54

TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

MEASURES TO COMBAT SEPARATIST AND ANTI-INDIA PROPAGANDA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

***54 SHRI DHAIRYASHIL MOHAN PATIL:**

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

(a) the steps being taken to combat separatist and anti-India propaganda on social media;

(b) whether Government has assessed the effectiveness of Section 69A of the Information Technology Act in reducing anti-India and separatist content;

(c) the manner in which an average citizen can report online, information encouraging anti-India sentiments and separatist ideology to Government, without using social media reporting mechanisms; and

(d) the long-term measures to minimize recurrence and limit cross-border social media influence on polarizing narratives?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
AND MINISTER OF 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 PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
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(a) to (d):- Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, inter-alia, empowers the Central Government to issue directions to any Government agency or an intermediary to block content 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 such matters. Appropriate directions are issued for blocking of access of such information under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009 by MeitY and under IT Rules, 2021 by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Nodal officers have been nominated in various Ministries/Departments/Organizations of Central Government as well as in State/Union Territories to whom the complaints relating to content covered under section 69A of IT Act, 2000, can be sent by the citizens. The nodal officers after examining the complaint may make a blocking request, if required, to M/o I&B or MeitY, as the case may be. The nodal officers may also take suo motu cognizance for content covered under the grounds stipulated in Section 69A.
