

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th MARCH, 2017
PHALGUNA, 19, 1938 (SAKA)

CRITICISING OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

1650. SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has issued instructions to its employees of penal action if they are found guilty of criticising its policies relating to the GST network and if so, the details thereof;
- b) whether the Government servants are barred from even the social media to make any sort of adverse criticism of any policy or action of the Government and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- c) whether such rules would be applicable to anonymous and pseudonyms posts by officials and if so, the reasons therefor;
- d) whether such restrictions curbs the fundamental right of free speech; and
- e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor imposing such stringent action in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (e): Rule 9 (i) of Central Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964 provides that no Government servant shall, in any radio broadcast, telecast through any electronic media or in any document published in his own name or anonymously, pseudonymously or in the name of any person or in any communication to the press or in any public utterance, make any statement of fact or opinion which has the effect of an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Central Government or a State Government. Recently, Central Board of Excise and Customs has issued instructions to all field formations regarding criticism of the Government and its policies.

Disciplinary proceedings as per the provisions contained in Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965 can be initiated against any employee for violation of the provisions of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and any of the penalties prescribed in Rule 11 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965, can be imposed on the erring Government servant.