

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4283**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2018

**REGULATION OF WEB MEDIA/NEWS PORTALS**

**4283 SHRI NINONG ERING**

Will the Minister of Electronics and information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is working to introduce legislation to codify web media and news portals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;
- (c) whether the government is going to introduce legislation for mandatory registration of web news portals and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the stand of the Government regarding regulation of the web news portals?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

(a) to (d): No, Sir, There is no proposal in the Government to introduce legislation to codify web media and news portals or to introduce legislation for mandatory registration of web news portals.

There are existing legal provisions to curb misuse of web media:

- (i) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 already provides for punishment for publishing or transmitting objectionable contents through following provisions:
  - Section 66E: Punishment for violation of privacy
  - Section 67: Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form.
  - Section 67A: Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form
  - Section 67B: Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form.
- (ii) Government also takes action under section 69A of IT Act for blocking of websites/webpages with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders. Section 69A of the IT Act empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of 1) sovereignty and integrity of India, 2) defence of India, 3) security of the State, 4) friendly relations with foreign States 5) public order or 6) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.
- (iii) Further, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update

or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

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