

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1048
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2022**

BLOCKING AND SUSPEND CHANNELS

1048. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

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

- (a) the details of monitoring mechanism for objectionable content being aired on YouTube channels and Facebook watch platforms, given the large volume of content being streamed;**
- (b) the details and the number of instances in which the Government has taken suo motu cognizance of objectionable content on social media platforms and the number of directions issued to block and suspend the channels, URLs etc. during the last ten years;**
- (c) whether it is a challenge to monitor content from being streamed in a different channel after one particular channel or video is blocked; and**
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to keep check on such instances and if not, the steps taken by the Government in successfully identify such repeated content?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a): Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 inter-alia empowers the Central Government to issue directions for blocking of content for public access 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 commission of any cognizable offence relating to such matters. The Government takes action in accordance with the procedure laid down under the Act. Action on unlawful content are dealt with under Section 79 3(b) of IT Act, 2000 by the appropriate Government or its agencies.

(b) to (d): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued directions for blocking of 104 YouTube based news channels, 45 videos and 25 social media accounts/posts/apps/websites of digital news publishers as per the procedure laid down in the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued directions for blocking of 30,417 user generated URLs, including webpages, websites, posts/accounts on social media platforms etc., from 2013 to October, 2022 for access of information by public under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 as per the procedure laid down in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.

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