GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1083

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13^{TH} DECEMBER, 2022/AGRAHAYANA 22, 1944 (SAKA)

TERRORISM ACTIVITIES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

†1083. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:

SHRI BALAK NATH:

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorist organizations and anti-national forces are conducting several activities including terrorism and anti-national activities through the social media and thereby impacting our culture;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to stop the said antinational activities and prevent the contamination of our culture; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to suspend such social media accounts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a): The cyberspace is virtual, borderless and offers complete anonymity. With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for spread of terror through the use of social media is higher than ever, posing a threat to sovereignty and integrity of the country. The problem of terrorism in India is largely sponsored from across the border. The Global Terrorist groups and some foreign agencies inimical to India have been making efforts to radicalise people and spread terrorism through use of social media platforms, internet etc.

(b) & (c): The Law Enforcement Agencies keep a close watch on activities on the Social Media Platforms and take suitable action as per the legal provisions. Further, the Government under the Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000, blocks unlawful and malicious online content including social media account, 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 above.

For effective and prompt investigation and prosecution of offences relating to cyber terrorism, National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act 2008 was amended in 2019 to include Section 66F of Information Technology Act, 2000 in its Schedule.
