

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1064
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.02.2023

BLOCKING ACCESS TO ONLINE CONTENT

1064. SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of directions issued under Rule 8(6) of the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2009 to block access to online content during the last five financial years including the provisional data for the current year;
- (b) the total number of hearings conducted by the Committee for examination of requests under Rule 8(1) of the IT Rules, 2009, during the said period;
- (c) the total number of blocking orders issued by the Ministry under Rule 9(2) of the IT Rules, 2009, during the said period;
- (d) the total number of websites, social media handles and apps blocked under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000, during the said period; and
- (e) whether any intermediaries have not complied with takedown orders and if so, the total number of such intermediaries that have been punished under section 69A(3) during the said period?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) to (d): Under Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(2) of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued blocking directions to various intermediaries and government agencies to block access of information by public. Such directions are issued for blocking a total of 2799, 3635, 9849, 6096 and 6775 URLs during the year 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively. These includes social media URLs, accounts, channels, pages, apps, webpages, websites etc. Further, the Committee constituted under Rule 7 of the aforesaid Rules has conducted 18, 40, 70, 39 and 53 number of meetings for hearing and examination during the year 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively.

(e): Currently all intermediaries are in compliance to all the directions issued by MeitY under section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
