

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 512
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.09.2020

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM

512. SHRI ANTO ANTONY

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that some social media platforms are allegedly trying to destroy our democracy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has written any letter to the social media authorities/management in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to ban any social media platform in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to set up an enquiry including a Joint Parliamentary Committee to enquire into the aforesaid matters; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATES FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a) and (b) : There were media reports that Facebook's hate-speech Rules collide with Indian politics, thereby trying to bias the democratic system of the country.

(c) : Minister for Electronics & Information Technology has written to CEO, Facebook about alleged bias of the platform and to ensure integrity and neutrality of the Facebook and the people working for Facebook.

(d): There is no such proposal with Ministry for Electronics & Information Technology.

(e) and (f) : Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology has already taken up the matter with Facebook.
