

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2674
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.03.2021

BLOCKING OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

2674. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

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

- (a) the number and the details of requests sent by the Ministry to Twitter and Facebook to block accounts, hashtags or pages in the last five years;
- (b) the grounds on which such requests were made; and
- (c) the checks and balances in the existing guidelines of the Ministry to issue requests such that it does not lead to censorship?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource 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. Blocking is done as per the process specified in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information By Public) Rules, 2009 notified under this section. There are adequate safeguards and checks-and-balances prescribed in these Rules in the form of an Inter-Ministerial Committee having members as joint secretary or equivalent to examine blocking request and to make its recommendation.

The no. of Twitter and Facebook URLs blocked during last five years is as follows:

Year	Facebook	Twitter
2016	357	194
2017	526	103
2018	155	224
2019	2049	1041

2020	1717	2731
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