

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1590
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021

INDEGINEOUS DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA APPS

1590. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:

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

- (a) the details of measures taken by the Government to develop/ incentivize indigenous app on the lines of similar apps like Whatsapp and other Microsoft software;
- (b) whether any measures have been taken by the Government to put a check on Facebook, Twitter and other foreign social media that have established server in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has developed an indigenous solution **Sandes** for instant messaging communication. Sandes is an Open source based, Secure, Cloud enabled platform hosted on Government Infrastructure so that the strategic control remains with GOI. It has features like one to one and group messaging, file and media sharing, audio video call and e-gov application integration etc. The solution is being used by the Govt. and is available at Google Play Store and App Store .

(b) and (c): The social media platforms are intermediaries as defined in the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. In order to ensure accountability of social media platforms to users and enhanced user safety, Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the Act that specifies the due diligence to be followed by all the intermediaries including the social media intermediaries. The Rules also prescribe additional due diligence to be followed by Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMI) like Facebook, Twitter, etc. These Rules are available on Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) website https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Intermediary_Guidelines_and_Digital_Media_Ethics_Code_Rules-2021.pdf

(d) : Does not arise.
