

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2813
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021

SOCIAL MEDIA INTERMEDIARIES

2813. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:
SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:

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

- (a) the details of the number of requests made by the Government to social media intermediaries for removal of content from their platform from 2014;
- (b) the year-wise classification of the details of the reasons behind the requests made to these social media intermediaries;
- (c) the details of the number of meetings held under Rule 7 of IT blocking rules 2009 before processing the removal request to the respective intermediaries since 2014;
- (d) whether Government looks to amend the “confidentiality clause” under the IT Blocking rules to ensure that a person whose content has been removed has access to the legal order; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons, therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is empowered to issue directions for blocking under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act (IT) 2000 only 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 directions are issued following the due process as envisaged in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009. The details on number of URLs blocked and meetings held under section 69A of the IT Act are as follows:

Year	No. of meetings held	No. of Accounts/ Websites/ URLs Blocked
2014	3	471
2015	9	500
2016	8	633
2017	10	1385
2018	18	2799
2019	40	3635

2020	70	9849
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The directions are issued to all intermediaries and Department of Telecom as appropriate.

(d) and (e): There is no proposal to amend the confidentiality clause of the above said Rules with this Ministry.
