

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION 689
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2021

GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK

689. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the draft law proposed in Australia and other similar moves to make platforms such as Google and Facebook pay for news and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has taken any steps towards regulating this feature in a similar manner and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has any concerns about the market power and dominance of platforms such as Google and Facebook and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): It is informed that the Australian Parliament had in February 2021 enacted a law, called the “News Media and Digital Platform Mandatory Bargaining Code”, requiring global digital companies to pay for local news contents.

(b)and (c): Government is aware of the growing risks of dominance of various big tech platforms on the Internet and is deploying tools and capabilities to deal with the same including actively working with social media intermediaries. Presently, there is no proposal forenactment of a law by this Ministry in this regard.
