

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5373  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2022**

**SECESSIONAIST CONTENT AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS ONLINE PLATFORMS.**

**5373. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:**

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Government is aware of the pro-Khalistan secessionist multimedia content available openly on platforms like Spotify and YouTube;**

**(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**

**(c) the manner in which the Government keeps track of such content;**

**(d) whether it is aware of any other such secessionist content available online, if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not taking any action against these platforms; and**

**(e) whether the Government has any plan on getting such content removed from these online platforms and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND  
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

**(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

**(a) to (e):- Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 inter alia empowers the Central Government to issue directions for blocking for public access of information on a computer resource in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defense 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 the above. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued directions for blocking of 56 YouTube based news channels and their social media accounts for public access during 2021-2022 in accordance with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 notified under Information Technology Act, 2000, including websites and social media accounts related to foreign-based 'Punjab Politics TV', containing pro-Khalistani content and having links with Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), an organization that has been declared unlawful under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.**

**Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) also issues directions for blocking for access of information by public under Section 69A of The Information Technology Act, 2000 as per the procedure laid down in the Information Technology (Procedure and safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.**

**\*\*\*\*\***