

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 307

TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2022

YOUTUBE CHANNELS

307. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had blocked many YouTube channels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether spreading false and unverified information were the reasons for the blocking of the said channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the incidents which prompted the Government to block these channels?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (d): Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 inter-alia empowers the Central Government to issue directions to any Government agency or an intermediary to block content 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 such matters.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued directions for blocking of 78 YouTube based news channels and their social media accounts for public access during 2021 and 2022 for violation of Section 69A of Information Technology Act, 2000. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has blocked 560 YouTube URLs during the years 2021 and 2022.

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