

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1918**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH MARCH, 2025/ PHALGUNA 20, 1946 (SAKA)

BANNING OF CHINESE-OWNED APPS

†1918. SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2020, when border tensions between India and China reached an all time high, the Government had banned 59 Chinese-owned Apps such as TikTok, Shareit, Shein, UC Browser, WeChat, Bigo Live etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that 59 Chinese Apps banned by the Government in 2020 have silently returned, either under new names or with slight modifications and some have changed ownership while others have largely remained the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the due process was followed by the Government to lift the ban?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a) & (b): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issues blocking directions from time-to-time under Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and its rules namely the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 in the interest of sovereignty & integrity of India, security of the State and public order. In 2020, the

Central Government issued blocking directions to block 59 mobile applications.

(c) & (d): Security agencies monitor blocked apps and apps which resurface or pose concerns are recommended for blocking in the interest of sovereignty & integrity of India, security of the State and public order. Further, the Government of India reviews its blocking orders from time-to-time based on the compliance by the company of the blocked app with prescribed government guidelines.
