

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2653
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 25.03.2022

BANNING OF MULTIPLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

2653. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has banned multiple social media handles which are spreading fake and inciting content on Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and other platforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon in the last five years, including the current year; and
- (c) whether penalties have been imposed and collected for the violations, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b):Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is empowered to issue directions for blocking for access of information by public under provision of section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and the rules thereby, namely, the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009. Section 69A provides power to government to issue directions if it is expedient to do so in the interest of sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for inciting cognizable offence relating to above. In line with the objective of the Government to ensure an Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable Internet for all its users and based on the requests received through designated nodal officers from various nodal officers, MeitY has blocked 1385, 2799, 3635, 9849, 6096 and 1264 URLs during the year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (till date) respectively. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has also blocked 22 and 47 URLs during 2021 and 2022 (till date) respectively under the provisions of section 69A of IT Act.

(c): So far, no penalties have been imposed.
