

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:616  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011  
REGULATION OF USE OF INTERNET  
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the recently notified set of rules under the IT Act, 2000 to regulate the use of Internet has evoked serious concern over the Government's attempt to gain free access to sensitive personal information on Internet uses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the various stakeholders in this regard;
- (c) whether Google and other Internet service providers have expressed their reservation on the rules; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a): News items had appeared in media on certain aspects of the Intermediaries Guidelines Rules, 2011 notified on 11.4.2011 under Information Technology Act, 2000.

(b): The media had projected that the rules violate the principle of freedom of expression and enable the government to regulate content.

Government has formulated the rules after wide consultation with industry Associations and stakeholders and the rules were duly endorsed by industry Associations. The industry Associations in their comments did not raise the issues particularly pertaining to compromising the privacy and violation of freedom of speech and expression.

(c): Google and Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) had sent their comments on the draft rules. The comments were studied and incorporated appropriately in the rules. The draft rules after incorporating the comments were also sent to IAMAI who had endorsed the final draft rules which were later notified.

(d): After the media reports, Government has issued two press notes on 10.5.2011 and 11.5.2011 and clarified that rules do not give any power to Government to regulate the content. The Rules also do not provide free access to sensitive personal information collected by service providers while providing services.