

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2994

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012

ANTI NATIONAL PROPAGANDA

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

(a) whether some social networking groups and websites are engaged in flaring up anti-India sentiments;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with details of such websites identified so far; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against these websites:

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) and (b): Recently, Government noted a concerted effort to incite communal passions by circulating provocative photographs and video clips on social networking sites and through SMS and MMS. Initial response from international social networking sites indicated that such content was to a significant extent emanating from outside the country. Around 500 web pages with objectionable and inflammatory content were found to be hosted on web sites such as Google, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube and Blogspot.

(c): Government has taken the following action in this regard:

Issued an advisory on 17th August 2012 to all the intermediaries including national and international social networking sites, advising them to take necessary action to disable inflammatory and hateful content hosted on their websites on priority basis.

Issued an order to block bulk SMS and MMS for 15 days as well as block MMS having an attachment of more than 25 Kilo Bytes.

Based on the request of law enforcement agencies, the Competent Authority under section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 issued direction for blocking of over 500 webpages/URLs carrying such anti-social, anti-national and hateful content.

Issued a Press Note titled 'Government Blocks 245 web Pages for Inflammatory Content hosting of Provocative and Harmful Content Being Monitored Continuously'

The Government is in regular dialogue with the intermediaries including social networking sites for effective and efficient disablement of such content.

Awareness campaign on this issue.