

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2650
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013
BLOCKING OF URL
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to block 73 URLs or web addresses linked to articles and blogs on the Court order;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind the blocking of such URLs;
- (c) whether the Government has also blocked other URLs on web addresses; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to ensure right to freedom of expression and speech?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): 73 URLs were blocked in compliance of a court order issued by Second Additional District Judge, Dabra, Gwalior. The court order was issued pursuant to a Civil Suit (16A of 2012) and subsequent application filed in the court of the District Judge, Darba, Gwaiior.

(c) and (d): In the year 2013, Government has blocked other 121 URLs in compliance of court orders. In addition, 60 URLs hosting video/trailor of controversial movie `Innocence of Muslims` were blocked under the provisions of section 69 A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and rules notified therein.

The provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 protect the democratic processes and freedom of speech and expression as well as citizen`s rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India. Further, the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of information for Public) Rules, 2009 published under section 69A of the Information Technology Act provides provision for review of the orders passed under this section for blocking of information for public access. The Government has also filed a petition in the Court of Additional District Judge, Dabra, Gwalior for review of the order dated 29.01.2011 passed by the Court for blocking of 73 URLs.