

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4638
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014
DUPLICATE ACCOUNTS ON NETWORKING SITES
Gaddigoudar Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of a large number of people having duplicate accounts on the social networking sites in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the directions issued / proposed to be issued by the Government to the said networking sites for closure of such accounts?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): The Cyber Space is virtual, borderless and unanimous. These unique characteristics facilitate anyone to open an account and post any information from anywhere on the Social Networking Sites, hiding his / her own identity and originality. There have been complaints from several persons that fake duplicate accounts have been created in their name on the Social Networking Sites. There are also incidents reported where malicious incidents are initiated from some of the fake accounts. However, no authentic data is made available by Social Media Sites on the number of such fake duplicate accounts.

(c): Government as and when such incidents of duplicate accounts are reported, take up the matter with the concerned Social Networking Sites for disablement of such accounts. The Social Networking Sites are also providing for reporting of such duplicate accounts on their sites. Further the Government has taken the following actions to prevent frauds by Social Networking Sites:

i) Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act. These Rules require that the intermediaries, including national and international Social Networking Sites shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of Computer resources not to host, display upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way. The said Rules also require the intermediaries to appoint grievance officers to address the grievances received from users and affected individuals / organizations as and when received by them.

ii) Government 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.

iii) Government is in regular dialog with the Intermediaries including Social Networking Sites for effective and efficient disablement of such content and duplicate accounts.