

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1728  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014  
MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA  
Shanavas Shri M. I.;Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to initiate a comprehensive ban of social media posts including YouTube uploads of fundamentalist terrorist organizations engaged in spreading violent images and crimes through Internet in the country disturbing communal harmony;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such footages and posts are freely available online and especially in social media uploads;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the monitoring mechanism available or proposed to be setup by the Government for such sites and the measures taken to prevent / posting of such materials or banning such Internet sites?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b): There is no proposal with the Government for comprehensive ban and termination of social media posts and youtube uploads that engage in spreading violent images and crimes through internet in the country disturbing communal harmony. However, Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000 empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any Computer Resource in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the above.

Further, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rule 2011, under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall publish on their web sites informing the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way. 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.

(c) and (d): Footages of YouTube uploads, Social Media posts spreading violent images and crimes capable of disturbing communal harmony are hosted on various web sites including social media sites which can be accessed by the public in general and some by users logging into their accountson the respective web sites / social media. freely available online on various websites including Social media sites. Such contents on Social Media sites and other sites, when reported by Law Enforcement and Security Agencies are taken up for blocking in accordance with the provisions of Information Technology Act 2000.

(e): At present, Law Enforcement and Intelligence / Security Agencies make searches on the Internet on specific case-to-case basis. Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) within the National Media Centre in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting tracks current trends on social media and monitors Public Interface on the social media network. The cyber space is anonymous and borderless and has become very sophisticated and complex with the technological innovations and inclusion of different type of techniques, devices and services. This makes it difficult to completely prevent /posting of such contents or banning such Internet sites. However, Government is empowered to take action for case to case blocking of such specific contents from public access on Internet under the section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000.