

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3429
ANSWERED ON-26.03.2018

Telecast of fake news

3429 Shri Anubhav Mohanty

- (a) whether it is a fact that the social media is overwhelmed with fake and disruptive news, which is deeply affecting the socio-economic structure of society;
- (b) whether there had been unwarranted communal tension due to these illogical and absurd news, which spreads like wild fire in the society;
- (c) the measure Government would take to ensure that such news are immediately removed from the social networking and the culprits are booked immediately; and
- (d) whether Government would consider bringing in legislation to take care of such anti-social activities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) to (d) : Instances of use of social media to spread fake news has come to the notice of the Government. It is being monitored through various provisions of the IT Act, 2000, which is administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries 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.

Further, Government takes action under section 69A of IT Act for blocking of websites/webpages with objectionable contents, whenever requests are received from designated nodal officers or upon Court orders. Section 69A of the IT Act empowers Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States (v) public order or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence related to above.
