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| 7 | Ahwa, District Dang | The proposal received from the District Collector, Dang in March, 2011 was bund to have no commitment for the land and the residential accommodation by the Sponsoring Authority. The Regional Office, Ahmedabad was requested in June, 2011 to keep liaison with the Sponsoring Authority to submit the revised proposal. |

Misuse of social networking sites

†*437. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many a times, social networking sites like facebook are misused in our country;
- (b) if so, whether Government keeps a vigil on it through its cyber-cell?
- (c) if so, whether even after this vigil, wrongful facts about the renowned leaders of the country are sometimes given on such networking site, which affects internal security of the country, and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Social networking sites have emerged as an online medium/ platform to enable users to share ideas, activities and events and express views/opinions on specific topics/events. Several groups and individuals have hosted content on these social networking sites for a variety of purposes, which may be liked by one section of society and used gainfully. Such sites can be accessed by all sections of users. Most of such networking sites are hosted outside the country.

During the period April, 2010 to July 2011, a total no. of 33 incidents of misuse of social networking sites, related to publishing of objectionable content pertaining to political leaders, religion, national security and individuals were reported to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) Millions of users worldwide from all sections of society use social networking sites. The technology and the associated application of social networking- allows the users to post the content of their choice automatically after registration with such sites without the role of service providers hosting such sites. The large number of users logging on to the sites and millions of pages on such sites make it practically very difficult to keep a vigil on all contents posted/hosted on these sites. Further, Government does not regulate content of the social networking sites. Government has notified Intermediary Guidelines Rules, 2011 under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000. These rules provide for the intermediaries to follow self-regulation. The intermediaries are also required to designate a grievance officer to redress such requests by the affected person. Any affected person may report the misuse of networking sites to the intermediary hosting these networking sites and request for removal / disabling of wrongful facts or objectionable content.

Also, the Telecom Service Providers provide, as per the terms and conditions of their license agreements, facilities for lawful interception and monitoring of communication flowing through their network including communications from social networking sites. However, the solution service providers of social networking sites secure certain communication to and from such networking sites by employing encryption, which pose challenges to security agencies to keep a vigil on contents of such sites.

The Government regularly interacts with Telecom Service providers and Solution Service Providers to address the issue and implement solutions to the extent possible keeping in view security, service and developmental needs of the country.

Losses due to uneconomic branch lines

***438.SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways incurred losses to the tune of Rs. 3000 crore as a result of uneconomic branch lines between 2005 and 2010;

(b) whether Railways are considering to rationalise freight and passenger tariffs to improve finances;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of other steps Railways are planning to reduce losses?