

Stoking of anti-national sentiments by social networking websites

†1614. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some social networking groups and websites are engaged in stoking anti-India sentiments;
- (b) whether Government has identified such groups and websites;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Internet infrastructure / service may be used for hosting variety of applications and content of any nature. This infrastructure does not distinguish the nature of content. The technology is therefore, used for purposes which may be liked by one section of society and not liked by other sections of society. Several groups have hosted web sites with objectionable content on the Internet for purposes such as stoking anti-national sentiments. Such sites can be accessed by all sections of users. Most of such websites are hosted outside the country. Recently, Government noted a concerted effort to incite communal passions by circulating provocative clips and photographs on social networking sites and through SMS and MMS. Initial response from international social networking sites indicated that such content was to a significant extent emanating from outside the country.

- (d) Government has taken the following action in this regard:
 - 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.
 - Issued an order to block bulk SMS and MMS for 15 days as well as block MMS having an attachment of more than 25 Kilo Bytes.
 - Based on the request of law enforcement agencies, the Competent Authority under section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

issued direction for blocking of 310 webpages/URLs carrying such anti-social, anti-national and hateful content. Issued a Press Note titled "Government Blocks 245 web Pages for Inflammatory Content hosting of Provocative and Harmful Content Being Monitored Continuously"

- The Government is in regular dialogue with the intermediaries including social networking sites for effective and efficient disablement of such content.
- Awareness campaign on this issue.

Telecom Commission recommendation on charging for excess spectrum

1615. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Commission in its meeting in November 2011 had recommended charging for excess spectrum from the date of allotment at 3G price with retrospective effect;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government still not accepting the recommendations of the Telecom Commission even though one year has passed;

(c) whether Government intends to change the recommendations to suit some influential telecom operators; and

(d) if not, the reasons for such a long delay in recovering the amount from the operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) The Government, considering various issues, including Telecom Commission recommendations, Ld. Attorney General's opinion, etc. on the issue of one time spectrum charge, has decided, for spectrum held above 6.2(GSM), a one-time charge be levied from July, 2008 onwards. There will be two prices. The price, prorated for the period July, 2008 up to the date of applicability of auction determined price, would be the 2001 entry fee divided by 6.2, duly indexed using State Bank of India Prime Lending Rate (SBI PLR). The auction determined price be levied for spectrum beyond 6.2 (GSM)/with effect from the date of commencement of the first quarter following the date of the Government decision.