

Region (ITIR) at Odisha. Now, the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) Policy, 2008 has been closed across India on amount of the vast changes that have taken place in the digital eco-system and the overall utility potential of the scheme including issues such as availability of land. The proposal for setting up of ITIR at Odisha has therefore been returned to Government of Odisha.

Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee on data protection

1695. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has already prepared a draft bill on data protection which has been referred to the Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee;

(b) if so, whether the Committee is bound to work on the draft Bill so referred or is free to suggest its own Bill based on the consultations undertaken;

(c) if there is draft Bill, the reasons why it has not been made public to invite comments from stakeholders; and

(d) whether the Ministry now intends to put it in the public domain to invite comments from stakeholders, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A Committee of Experts on Data Protection chaired by retired Supreme Court Justice Shri B. N Srikrishna has been constituted to look into the aspects pertaining to Data Protection. The Committee has put out a White Paper for wider public review and inputs. The Committee has also conducted Stakeholders Consultation meetings at four cities. Detailed inputs have now been received. The Committee is presently engaged in the process of analyzing the same. On completion of its activities, the Committee is then expected to prepare and submit the draft Bill on Data Protection.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Aadhaar card for disabled persons

†1696. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aadhaar cards of disabled persons, leprosy patients and few of the senior citizens of the country could not be made;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering upon taken any action for making Aadhaar cards of such people; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Regulation 6 of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016 provides special mechanism to enrol such persons with biometric exception. Accordingly, enrolment for Aadhaar is done for all residents of the country including persons with disability, missing biometrics or poor quality, finger prints or missing/amputated limbs etc.

Misuse of social media

1697. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that social media is increasingly being used to spread rumours and defame public personalities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that social media is being used to disturb peace and spread terror propaganda; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to address the problem and to have an effective monitoring of social media?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Some instances of use of social media being misused for posting objectionable contents, defame public personalities and to spread terror propaganda have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) 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 relating to above.