

process and vacancies keep arising due to retirement/ expansion of schools etc. and are filled up from time to time.

Vacancies for posts of Vice Chancellor in universities

1338. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Vice-Chancellor of different universities across the country lying vacant, and the details of such vacancies, date-wise; and

(b) by when such vacancies are likely to be filled up in the academic interest of the country, and its details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'):

(a) and (b) The incidence and filling up of vacancies of Vice Chancellors in Universities is a continuous process. The process of appointment of Vice Chancellor in Central University is a time consuming exercise which involve getting Executive Council/ Court's nomination(s) of the concerned Central University, constitution of Search-cum-Selection Committee, advertisement of posts, scrutiny of applications, inter-action with the shortlisted candidates, getting vigilance clearances, approval of the competent authority, etc., hence, no time-frame can be indicated.

Regulation of social media

1339. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether there is a plan to regulate social media, which has become a platform to spread fake news and hatred, putting peace and harmony at risk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential to misuse the social media to spread fake news and hatred, putting peace and harmony at risk is a global issue. Government is committed to freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution of India.

The social media sites, for user generated content hosted and transmitted on their platform, are Intermediaries as defined in the Information Technology Act, 2000 and

they have to follow certain due diligence specified in the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act. The intermediaries are required to inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is, inter alia, grossly harmful, harassing, defamatory, libelous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically objectionable, disparaging, or otherwise unlawful in any manner. They are also expected to remove any unlawful content relatable to Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by appropriate government or its agency.

'Made in India' applications

1340. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to boost the 'Made in India' Apps so that they can replace the banned applications and also make their presence felt on the global arena?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): To promote and kickstart development of 'Made in India' app ecosystem in the country, the Government of India launched the AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge on July 4, 2020 which saw participation from tech entrepreneurs and start-ups from across the country, including Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns apart from the metros. The Challenge received a total of 6,940 entries across 9 different categories, namely, Business (Fintech and Agritech), eLearning, Entertainment, Games, Health, News, Office and Work from Home, Social Network and others. Out of these, 24 best apps in different categories were selected for awards by Jury comprising of experts from Industry, Academia and Government. An additional 20 apps have also been given special mention by the Jury.

Policy on blockchain technology

1341. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by 2023 India is going to become the world leader in Blockchain technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof and in what manner it helps the common man and various sectors of government for better governance and penetrating Technology for the betterment of farmers and rural poor;