

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*327**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 25.03.2021

**STATUS OF THE SANDES APP**

**\*327 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a): whether Government has launched any instant messaging services for India under the Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS);
- (b): whether Government propose to monetize the Sandes App in any manner;
- (c): whether the App is proposed to be funded completely by the Ministry in case the App is scaled to reach crores of smartphone users in India;
- (d): whether the privacy policy and terms of use for 'Sandes' is available publicly;
- (e): the reasons for its non-availability on Google Play Store and by when Government plans to launch the Sandes App for public at large; and
- (f): whether the Sandes App is safer than WhatsApp?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED  
Q. NO.\*327 FOR 25-03-2021 REGARDING STATUS OF THE SANDES  
APP**

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(a) to (f): Yes, Sir. The instant messaging system developed by National Informatics Center (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is named Sandes. It is hosted on Government of India's infrastructure. The app has been made available at Google Play Store and Apple App Store. For the moment, the app is envisaged for Government use and all the resources for this are provided by NIC, MeitY. The app is made to facilitate Government communication and it is intended to be non-commercial in nature. As of now, there is no intent to monetize the app. The privacy policy is available for Sandes users as part of the app. Sandes app provides end-to-end encryption for the messages.

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