

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1193
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.02.2022

BAN ON SENDING GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS THROUGH CERTAIN APPS

**1193. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
 CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV :
 SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR :
 SMT. CHHAYA VERMA :**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a ban on sending government documents through WhatsApp, Zoom, Telegram or Google Meet;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of gadgets being emphasised to be used by government employees for communication?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The information security instructions provided in Manual of Departmental Security Instructions (MoDSI) and National Information Security Policy Guidelines (NISPG) issued by Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) which are supplemented time to time by various advisories, require all Ministries/Government Departments not to use public domain messaging platforms for sending classified official communications.

(c): The use of Government email service provided by National Informatics Center (NIC) or Government Instant Messaging platforms – Sandes by NIC or Samvad by Centre for Development of Telematics (CDoT) is recommended in the Ministries/Departments for communication of Confidential and Restricted information. However the Top secret and Secret classified information shall not be shared through these platforms too.
