

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1036
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2022

BLOCKING OF ONLINE CHANNELS

1036. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has specific parameters to evaluate content as “anti-india” as Government recently blocked 35 Youtube news channels, 2 websites, 2 twitter and 2 instagram accounts because of their “anti-india” content; and

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

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (b): Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 inter-alia empowers the Central Government to issue directions to any Government agency or an intermediary to block content in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to such matters. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, notified on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000, inter-alia provides for blocking of content of a digital news publisher referred to in Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 in the manner laid down therein. The Central Government had on 20th January, 2022 invoked these provisions for blocking of information of 35 YouTube news channels, 2 websites, 2 Twitter, 2 Instagram and 1 Facebook accounts.
