

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2186

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 04TH AUGUST, 2022

Hate speeches on Social Media

2186. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of complaints received by the Election Commission against hate speeches on social media platforms during the last five years;
- (b) whether the Election Commission has investigated the role of those spreading hate speeches and lies on Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Election Commission has ordered an inquiry into the data leaks during elections in view of the number of complaints from political parties during the last five years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a)& (b): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that as a result of their vigorous persuasion, all the major social media platforms under the aegis of Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) came together and mutually agreed upon a "Voluntary Code of Ethics" for the General Elections 2019.

The code has been in effect since Lok Sabha Election 2019 and for all Legislative Assembly Elections held after that. The Code has been developed to ensure free, fair & ethical use of social media platforms and to maintain the integrity of the electoral process. Intermediary platforms have also committed to perform their share of responsibility for voter education and awareness. The ECI, in pursuance of "Voluntary code of ethics", has been directing several social media platforms to take down content (links, videos, posts, tweets) found objectionable as per various provisions of MCC, RPA, IPC and other electoral laws during elections. Total number of "Hate News" cases reported to social media platforms (since Lok Sabha Elections 2019) is 130, the details are given as under:

Number of cases reported (received as complaints) by ECI against Hate Speech on Social Media (since 2019)

SI. No.	Election	Total no. of cases
1.	Lok Sabha election-2019	58
2.	Maharashtra and Haryana- Legislative Assembly Election-2019	01
3.	Jharkhand- Legislative Assembly Election-2019	Nil
4.	NCT of Delhi- Legislative Assembly Elections-2020	34
5.	Bihar- Legislative Assembly Elections-2020	Nil
6.	Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry- Legislative Assembly Elections-2021	29
7.	Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh- Legislative Assembly Elections-2022	08
Total -		130

(c): The Election Commission of India has informed that no complaints have been received from Political Parties in respect of data leaks during elections in the last five years.

(d): Does not arise.
