

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2803
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.3.2023

DIGITAL INDIA BILL

2803. SMT. SULATA DEO:

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

- (a) the current status of the Digital India Bill, which was due in the Winter Session, 2022-23 of the Parliament;
- (b) the timeframe within which the Bill would be tabled and subsequently made open to public inputs; and
- (c) the Ministry and/or Department which would regulate the digital avatars on Facebook, WhatsApp and the like;

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring an Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable Internet for its users. To help achieve this aim, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology engages with and receives inputs from the public and stakeholders, including in respect of changes required to existing legislation and the need to introduce fresh legislation. Such engagement includes all aspects of law, including regulation of digital representation of users on various online platforms. Once the legislative proposal is formulated, in accordance with the Government's policy on pre-legislative consultation, proposed legislation is published in the public domain and feedback/comments invited from the public before submitting a legislative proposal to the Cabinet. Thereafter, in accordance with the procedure detailed in the Manual of Parliamentary Procedures as published by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the Ministry of Law and Justice is consulted on the same and, after approval of the Cabinet, notice of the motion for introduction of a Bill is given to the Secretariat of relevant House of Parliament.

The said procedure for introduction of a Bill in Parliament and pre-legislative consultation policy for public feedback/comments is observed in respect of all legislative proposals of the Government. No draft has been published of the Digital India Bill for public feedback/comments and no notice of the same was given in respect of the Digital India Bill for its introduction in the Winter Session, 2022-23.
