

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 734
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.12.2023

ARBITRARY BLOCKING OF SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENTS

734. SHRI P.WILSON:

Will the MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the concerns raised by social media content creators in State of Tamil Nadu with regards to arbitrary blocking of contents with reference to EVR Periyar and Ambedkar speeches;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address these concerns;
- (c) the details of content that were blocked under emergency blocking in the State of Tamil Nadu without issuing notice to Publishers; and
- (d) the details of the content that were blocked under Emergency blocking and the details of inter-ministerial committee decisions on these contents?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring that the internet in India is open, safe, trusted and accountable to all users. Accordingly, the Government issues lawful directions for blocking for access of information by public under section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 which provides power to government to issue such directions if it is necessary or expedient to do so 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 above. The Government follows due process as provided in the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009. As per Rule 16 of the said Rules, strict confidentiality shall be maintained regarding all the requests and complaints received and actions taken thereof.
