

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2163
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2024**

RESPONSIBLE AND ETHICAL USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

2163 Ms. Dola Sen:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any measures to ensure the responsible and ethical use of social media platforms, particularly in combating misinformation, hate speech, and online defamation;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether Government plans to collaborate with national and international stakeholders to establish regulatory frameworks and guidelines for governing social media platforms and preventing their misuse; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING &
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (d): The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) on 25.02.2021 under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

For the user generated content on intermediary platforms, Part-II of IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY), the rules provide for due diligence by intermediaries and casts specific obligations and places accountability on such intermediaries, including social media intermediaries or platforms, to ensure that they are accountable for their platforms to be safe & trusted and do not carry any content that is violative of rule 3(1)(b) of IT Rules, 2021.

Similarly for the content of publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms), Part-III of the IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the rules, inter-alia, provide for a Code of Ethics for such publishers.

The IT Rules, 2021 also provide for issuance of directions for blocking of content of intermediaries and publishers for carrying content as referred under Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 “in the interest of the sovereignty or 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”. Appropriate directions are issued for blocking of access of such information that has potential to spread communal hatred and to disturb the public order, under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009 by MeitY and under IT Rules, 2021 by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
