

Through: Speed Post

No. 14(23)/2015-ESD
Government of India
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Department of Electronics & Information Technology
E-Security and Cyber Law Group

Jyoti Pandey
Centre for internet and society
Top Floor, G15, Behind Hauz Khas G Block Market

Sub: Application under RTI Act, 2005 from Jyoti Pandey

Sir,

With reference to your RTI application on the above subject, it is hereby informed that point wise reply to your queries is as follows:

Question 1: Did the Department order to block the listed 32 websites or request take down of content from Facebook or Twitter under s. 69A of the IT Act, 2000 read with the IT (Procedures and Safeguards for Blocking Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 ("Rules") or any other law for the time being in force? If so, please provide a copy of such order or order.

Answer 1: Department issued directions to block 32 websites on 18-12-2014 based on the request of ATS, Mumbai as they were being used to post information related to ISIS using the resources provided by these websites. These links were appearing and disappearing on a regular basis. Attempts were made to contact the websites, however websites replied only after the blocking of objectionable contents. After obtaining undertaking from the website owners on 09-01-2015 that they would work with the Government to comply with Indian Laws, the sites were unblocked and have been accessible in the Country.

Further, as per the provision of Rules 16 of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguard for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, notified under section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000, the request and complaints received and actions taken thereof are strictly confidential.

Question 2: If not, What action been taken by the Department for blocking of websites or requesting takedown of content from Facebook or Twitter in contravention of any provision of the IT Act? If so, what was the Information that was ordered to be blocked?

Answer 2: Does not arise

Question 3: Numbers of requests for blocking or takedown of Information received by the Designed Officer (January 2013-January 2015).

Question 4: Number of requests that have been accepted and the number of requests rejected.

Question 5: Number of requests for emergency blocking under Rule 9 of the Rules.

Answer 3, 4 and 5: Since, January 1, 2015 till March, 31, 2015, Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) has issued directions to block a total of 143 URL's based on court orders.

Question 6: A committee for Examination of Requests has been constituted under Rule 7 of the Rules. Please provide us the present composition of the committee.

Answer 6: Composition of committee is notified under rule 7 of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguard for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, notified under section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000.

Question 7: The number of meetings held by the Committee for Examination of Requests.

Question 8: Please provide us the dates and copies of the minutes of all meetings of the Committee for Examination of Requests under Rule 8(4) of the Rules and provide copies of their.

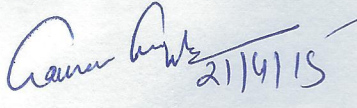
Answer 7 and 8: Since 2014, there has been 6 meetings, however, as per the provision of Rules 16 of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguard for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, notified under section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000, the request and complaints received and actions taken thereof are strictly confidential. Copies of these rules are available on this Department's website www.deity.gov.in.

Question 9: The Review committee has been constituted under rules 419 A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951. Please provide us the composition of the committee.

Answer: 9. Composition of committee is notified under point 16 of rules 419 A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951.

Question 10: Please provide us the dates and copies of the minutes of all meetings held by the Review committee under Rules 14 of the Rules and copies of all orders issued by the Review.

Answer: 10. One review committee meeting under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary with Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs and Secretary, DOT was held on 7.1.2013 and minutes are not available.


(Dr. Gaurav Gupta)
Scientist 'D'