

Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Dated: 13.03.2019

Subject: Clarification from Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on the news item published in Times of India on Twitter.

Times of India has published a news item today on 13.03.2019 entitled “*Twitter executives could face 7-year jail, warns government*”. The news item conveys that “government has warned Twitter that its top executives could face up to seven years in jail along with financial penalties for their failure to remove content and accounts carrying “objectionable and inflammatory content”. It further states that Twitter has been warned and asked to comply with the provisions of the Indian IT Act and that it will face action under Section 69A of the IT Act.

The report, as published, appears to be exaggerated, stemming from a misunderstanding of the established legal procedure.

In this regard, it is clarified that Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has powers under Section 69A to direct blocking/ removal of any information on Internet under exceptional scenarios of issues related to National Security, Sovereignty and Integrity of the country, Defence of the country, Friendly relations with foreign countries, Public order or Incitement to any of the above. Any issues relating to the same are taken up in accordance with the established legal procedures.

We remain assured with the fact that the Intermediary platforms have been working closely with the government in a congenial and mutually supportive manner.
