



Saurav Das @OfficialSauravD Mon Apr 10 14:20:08 +0000 2023

Filed a Right to Information application with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology seeking reasons and other details for ordering “worldwide” blocking of my tweets on Amit Shah. The tweets were innocuous. So why order Twitter to block them? <https://t.co/Ap7GK1IFNX>


 Select Language: English Public Authorities Available
RTI Online
Version 2.0
 An Initiative of Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India
[Submit Request](#) [Submit First Appeal](#) [View Status](#) [User Manual](#) [Contact Us](#) [FAQ](#) [My Account](#) [Login History](#)

[Final Status of](#)

Applicant Name	Saurav Das
Date of receipt	10/04/2023
Request Filed With	Department of Electronics & Information Technology
Text of Application	<p>Under the provisions of the RTI Act, kindly provide the following information-</p> <p>Whereas the Central government has passed directions to Twitter u/s 69A for blocking access to certain tweets of my Twitter handle- @OfficialSauravD.</p> <p>The following links to the tweets from me have been withheld globally-</p> <p>https://twitter.com/OfficialSauravD/status/1596739672721756164?s(is equal to symbol)20</p> <p>https://twitter.com/OfficialSauravD/status/1596748959317659648?s(is equal to symbol)20</p> <p>In relation to these, kindly furnish the following information-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The date on which orders to block access to the above-mentioned tweets were passed. 2. Whether the order required worldwide blockage of access to the tweets or only in India. 3. The reasons for blocking these tweets, as noted in the files. 4. Whether such an order to Twitter required Twitter to NOT inform the user of this legal request from government. If so, the details thereof. 5. Whether Twitter has been asked in the past to not inform users in case access to their accounts or tweets are restricted/blocked on MEITY's request u/s 69A of IT Act. 6. Whether the orders have been reviewed by the Review Committee. If so, the details of the final decision.

PLEASE NOTE- The Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Sanjay Dhotre, while replying to an unstarred question on the Floor of the House of Parliament (copy attached), replied to the same questions that asked for the reasons for passing orders to block certain other Twitter accounts, as asked in this RTI i.e. if you see Question B of the Honble MPs question- the reasons for passing orders to block, and Question D- whether a review committee undertook a review of the blocking orders.

The Honble Minister has furnished to the Parliament, details about SPECIFIC cases (that of Caravan Magazine and Kisan Ekta Morcha).

And therefore, since it is a settled principle of law and since the RTI Act itself mandates in Section 8 -information which cannot be denied to the Parliament and state legislature, shall not be denied to any person- under the Right to Information Act, the Ld. CPIO is requested to furnish the above asked information in a point-wise detailed manner, in compliance with the law and in compliance to the plethora of judgements of High Courts and the Supreme Court that have upheld and reiterated the said mandate.

Thank you

Unfortunately, as has been the norm, IT Ministry does not disclose reasons for passing a blocking order. Neither does it share a copy of the order which is bizarre and against principles of natural justice. How is one supposed to challenge the decision if copy of order is not... <https://twitter.com/i/web/status/1645431481634832384>

Fortunately, stumbled across a Parliamentary question on the issue of blocking certain Twitter handles by the govt (@thecaravanindia and @kisanektamorcha). Some reasons were provided by the govt to the parliament.

Under the RTI Act, information that cannot be denied to... <https://twitter.com/i/web/status/1645432348505145344> ...cannot be denied to a citizen.

All we have to see now is if the MEITY obeys the law of the land and shares the details or it chooses to flout it.

Also a reminder that the present govt is going to remove this right. It'll delete the provision from RTI Act via DPDP Bill.

End

Also, the Karnataka High Court which is hearing Twitter's challenge against what it calls "abuse of power" by the central govt in ordering blocking of tweets, asked this very pertinent question:

<https://twitter.com/LiveLawIndia/status/1645421011494637573?s=20>

For more details about what happened, here's the story:

<https://twitter.com/OfficialSauravD/status/1644644480128286720?s=20>