

>

Title: Regarding usages of TikTok and other similar Apps for campaigning of political parties for election.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am going to raise an urgent matter of public importance; and I would make it very quick.

Sir, Bytedance, which runs *Helo* and *TikTok* Apps is the world's most valuable start-up. Its App *TikTok* has reportedly crossed one billion downloads worldwide, and has over 300 million users in India. Its applications collect 45 per cent more information and permissions than any other Apps granting them intrusive access to their users.

Bytedance also runs a network of paid influencers, who receive Rs. 1 lakh per month. In 2019, Facebook removed over 11,000 fake or morphed election-related media shared by *Helo* in India.

There was also widespread use of *TikTok* for campaigning by political parties during the recently conducted elections. We have also seen people spreading fake news and malicious content under the guise of freedom of speech, which is impacting our democratic process. Under the garb of a light-hearted application, *TikTok* and its affiliates pose a serious threat to India.

So, I would request the Government of India to take appropriate action to ban *TikTok* and other such similar Apps in the country and to direct Google, Apple, Antroid etc., to remove such Apps from their platforms.

Thank you, Sir.

