

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding Social media vis-à-vis fight against extremists.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I would like to draw attention to a news items in the Times of India published on June 11, 2018 titled “Government to examine feasibility of blocking WhatsApps calling services in insurgency-hit areas” and on May 26, 2018. ‘Facebook, WhatsApp not helping in terror probes: Intel Agencies’.

J&K and LWE are the main areas of concern. These Apps have become a hurdle in fight against extremists even though they are not yet available to Maoists in LWE areas on real-time basis.

Now, Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) officials are strengthening extremists against security forces by setting up 4G network in LWE areas that will enable extremists to use Apps like WhatsApp , Google voice, Facebook, Telegram and Viber on real time basis.

Because of this above facility by USOF, the Extremists will be able to make strategy and monitor attack on security forces on real time basis without any fear of interception of security forces.

High speed *Internet* has become a big headache for security agencies all over the world. The is the reason that a large number of countries including China, Gulf countries and Turkey have banned these social media Apps. Many European countries including France have also banned these Apps in case of riots.

The action needed:

- 1- DOT should be asked to immediately award the project to government owned BSNL and BSNL should call for open tenders as they are doing in other USOF funded schemes.
- 2- Immediate action should be taken against USOF Administrator for Act of Treason for helping Maoists in their war against India.