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Parliamentary panel questions Twitter

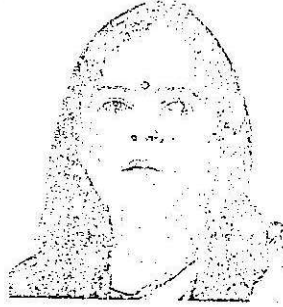
MPs raise Kunal Kamra's tweets

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The joint Parliamentary Committee on the Data Protection Bill questioned representatives of Twitter on the "selective removal and suspension of accounts", specifically giving the example of stand-up comic Kunal Kamra's recent tweets attacking the Supreme Court for granting TV anchor Arnab Goswami a reprieve after his arrest in an abetment to suicide case.

The panel had asked Twitter to explain its policy regarding suspension of accounts and removing "offensive" tweets. Twitter representatives were called in on Thursday after the panel found that their written response was inadequate.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, committee Chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said, "Twitter, in their written response, claimed that they do not promote obscenity and profanity. We showed them Mr. Kamra's tweets and asked them how exactly are these tweets still running." She said that Mr. Kamra's tweets showed disrespect to the constitutional



Meenakshi Lekhi

head of the justice system of the country.

Twitter was also asked if it was because of the algorithm or manual intervention that some "content" got promoted over others.

According to sources, members across party lines questioned the Twitter representatives.

Meanwhile, Standing Committee Chairman for Information and Technology Shashi Tharoor questioned the mandate of the joint committee to take up these issues.

In reply, Ms. Lekhi said, "I expected better understanding of law and jurisdictional issues from someone who is heading the Standing Committee on IT."