

Section 69A grants power to the Central Government to "issue directions for blocking of public access to any information through any computer resource". In other words, it allows the government to block any website under certain grounds. The Government notified rules which lay down the procedure for blocking public access to information

*Designated Officer has the power to issue directions to any agency of the Government or intermediary for blocking of access to websites.

In case of public emergency

The Designated Officer shall examine the sample of the content intended to be blocked and determine whether it would be expedient to block access to the content in the interest of

- sovereignty and integrity of India
- defence of India security of the State
- friendly relations with foreign States or public order or
- for preventing incitement to the commission of a cognizable offence.

After examination of the sample content, the Designated Officer will submit his recommendations to the request to the Secretary, Dept. of Information Technology.

If Secretary of DIT is satisfied and is of the opinion that it is expedient and necessary to block public access to information then it can issue directions to the intermediary or the person hosting the content without giving them an opportunity to be heard

(Procedure for Blocking Websites)

Any person can send a complaint to the Nodal Officer for blocking certain content or a website.

* Nodal Officer is appointed in all

The Nodal Officer * sends such request to the Designated Officer

Is the request directly from the Nodal Officer?

Approval from the Chief Secretary of the State or Union Territory

Designated Officer*

After receiving the request, the Designated Officer will try to identify the person or intermediary who has hosted the content and issue a notice to such person or intermediary.

*The Designated Officer will furnish a certified copy of the Court Order to the Secretary, Dept. of Information Technology and initiate action as directed by the Court.

- *Committee for Examination of Request

In case of a Court Order

Intermediary or the person who has hosted the content can reply to the notice within 48 hours of its receipt



The designated officer will submit the representations if any, made by the person or intermediary hosting the content and the request made by the Nodal officer to the Committee for Examination of Request*

The Committee will issue recommendations on the basis of the request

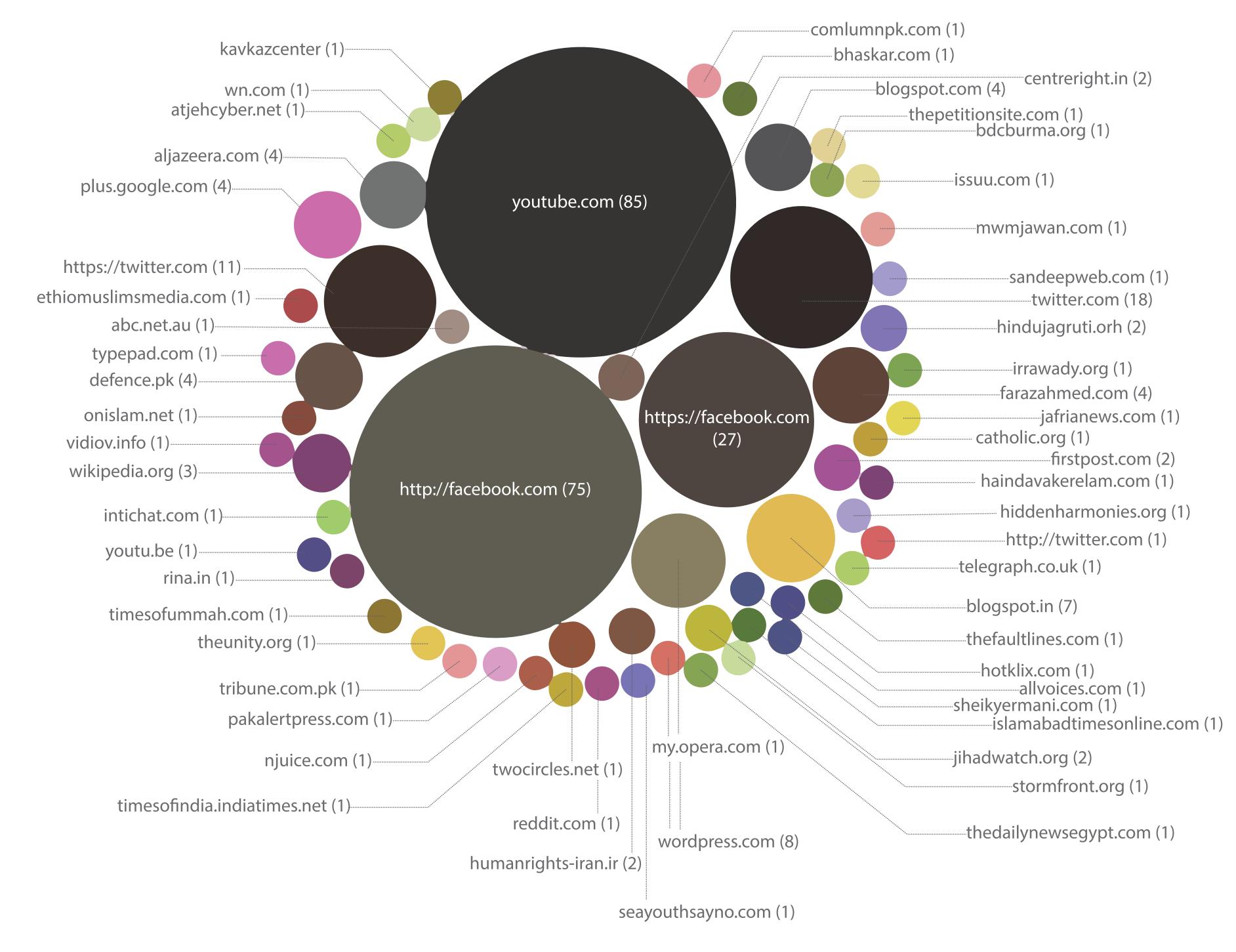
The Designated officer will submit the recommendations of the Committee and the request from the Nodal Officer to the Secretary, Dept. of Information Technology (DIT)

With the approval of the Secretary, DIT the Designated Officer will direct concerned Government Agency (e.g. Dept. of Telecom.) to issue block orders

ANALYSIS OF BLOCKING ORDERS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT



URLs blocked during the North-East exodus (Public Emergency)



North East Exodus Block Orders: Implementation by BSNL (Internet Service Provider)

