

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 242
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022**

FACT-CHECKS BY PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

242. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- a) the details of the number of fact-checks publicly released by the Press Information Bureau for the past five years and the current year in a year-wise manner;
- b) whether the Ministry has any policy to tackle misinformation and the prevention of the spread of false information; and
- c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(a) The details of the number of fact-checks publicly released (i.e. posted on social media) by the Fact Check Wing since coming into existence in 2019 in a year-wise manner:

Total Fake News busted publicly till 29-11-2022 are 967.

Fact Check (Year-wise Data) :

19th December, 2019 to 31st December, 2019	17
1st January, 2020 to 31st December, 2020	394
1st January, 2021 to 31st December, 2021	285
1st January, 2022 to 29th November, 2022	271
Total	967

(b & c) The Government has statutory and institutional mechanisms in place to combat fake news including the following:

(i) Fact Check Unit setup under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry in November, 2019 takes cognizance of fake news both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens and responds to the relevant queries with correct information.

(ii) For Electronic Media, all television channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in respect of all content broadcast by them. The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021, has been notified on 17.6.2021 which provides for a three tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into the complaints relating to the violation of the Programme Code by the TV channels.

(iii) For news on digital media, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rule, 2021 under Information Technology Act which inter-alia provides for adherence of Code of Ethics by publishers of news on digital media and also three tier mechanisms for redressal of grievance relating to Code of Ethics by them.

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