

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 281
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022**

FAKE WEBSITES OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

281. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether various websites and videos provide fake information regarding various Government schemes;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) actions taken by Government to curb such websites and videos?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (c): The Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000, on 25th February, 2021, which inter-alia provides for Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and a three level grievance redressal mechanism for looking into complaints relating to violation of the Code of Ethics by such publishers. The Code of Ethics for such publishers requires adherence to the Norms of Journalistic Conduct of Press Council of India (PCI).

Under the provisions of Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 the Ministry issues directions for blocking of content of digital news publishers covered under the provisions of Section 69 A of Information Technology Act, 2000. From December, 2021, the Ministry has issued direction for blocking of 104 YouTube news channels, 45 videos and 25 social media accounts/posts/Apps/websites of digital news publishers under these provisions.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting set up a Fact Check Unit (FCU) under the Press Information Bureau (PIB) in December, 2019. The Unit is mandated to counter misinformation on Government policies, initiatives and schemes either suo-moto or under a reference via complaints. The Fact Check Unit receives communication/message from the public at large through Whatsapp (+918799711259), email (pibfactcheck@gmail.com), Twitter (@PIBFactCheck) and PIB's website (www.pib.gov.in). Since its establishment in December 2019, FCU has done fact check in 1405 cases and posted the result about such fact checks on its social media accounts.

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