

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *367
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023**

DETECTION OF FAKE NEWS BY PIB.

***367. SHRI A.A. RAHIM:**

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

(a) whether the draft IT rules intend to entrust the PIB with the power to determine veracity of news reports;

(b) whether reports, determined as fake by PIB, would be ordered to be taken down from online and social media portals;

(c) whether the rules enable Government to authorise any other agency for the same; and

(d) whether the draft rules tantamount to legitimising Government censorship, if so, the details thereof?

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

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
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(a) to (d) : A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has been established in November, 2019 under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry which takes cognizance of fake news both suo-motu and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and WhatsApp and responds to the relevant queries with correct information pertaining to the Central Government. The FCU has responded to 37,000 actionable queries and has busted over 1160 fake news.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules) under Information Technology Act, 2000 inter-alia casts specific obligations on intermediaries to observe due diligence including making of reasonable efforts to cause its users not to host, display, upload, publish, transmit or store information which is patently false and untrue or misleading in nature.

With a view to strengthen the due diligence by intermediaries under IT Rules, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) has published a draft amendment to the IT Rules on 17.01.2023 inviting feedback from the stakeholders and also conducted consultation with intermediaries to also inter alia include information identified as fake or false by the Fact Check Unit.
