

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 94  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

**FACT-CHECKING BODY UNDER PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU**

**94. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:**

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

- (a) the number of queries, and number of instances in which Government has taken action, month-wise details since inception;
- (b) whether there are any domain experts in the committee of the fact-checking body;
- (c) whether there is any provision for appeal;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the effect of this body after a new Fact Checking Unit is created under IT Amendment Rules, 2023?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) A Fact Check Unit has been set up under Press Information Bureau (PIB) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2019 which takes cognizance of fake news relating to the Central Government both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and social media. The Unit responds to the relevant queries with correct and updated information related to the policies, schemes, guidelines, initiatives, etc of the Government of India. The month wise details of actionable queries between November, 2020 to June, 2023 are given in Annexure.**

**(b) to (d) PIB undertakes fact checking through rigorous process involving multiple layers of cross-checking through Government Open-source information and verification from the concerned Government of India organization.**

**(e) No Fact Check Unit has been notified by Government under the provisions of Information Technology (Amendment) Rules, 2023.**

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**Annexure in reference to Part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.94 for answer on 20.07.2023**

<b>Month -wise details of actionable queries by PIB Fact Check Unit</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>Total Actionable Queries</b>
November - 2020	801
December - 2020	671
January- 2021	881
February- 2021	576
March- 2021	679
April- 2021	5387
May- 2021	1754
June- 2021	1540
July- 2021	659
August- 2021	991
September- 2021	541
October- 2021	1198
November- 2021	504
December- 2021	702
January- 2022	1055
February- 2022	676
March- 2022	548
April- 2022	475
May- 2022	636
June- 2022	1018
July- 2022	692
August- 2022	887
September- 2022	687
October- 2022	553
November- 2022	407
December- 2022	473
January- 2023	438
February- 2023	406
March- 2023	649
April- 2023	517
May- 2023	532
June- 2023	847
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,380</b>

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