

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*200**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024**

**STEPS TO COMBAT FAKE NEWS**

\*200. MS. DOLA SEN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that India is one of the countries most affected by disinformation and fake news;
- (b) the measures taken by Government to tackle the issue of disinformation during Financial Years 2020-2024;
- (c) whether Government has made efforts towards using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies to automate the detection of fake news;
- (d) if so, the details of the progress made in implementing these tools, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government has made efforts to collaborate with independent fact-checking organizations to combat fake news?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE RAJYA  
SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*200 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024 ON  
STEPS TO COMBAT FAKE NEWS.**

(a) to (e): The Government takes all possible actions to control the spread of fake and misleading information which has potential to adversely affect the society at large. In this regard, the Government has statutory and institutional mechanisms in place to address fake news on various media platforms.

For Print Media, the newspapers have to adhere to “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” brought out by Press Council of India (PCI) which, inter alia, restrains publication of fake/defamatory/ misleading news. The Council holds inquiry into alleged violations of Norms, as per section 14 of the Act, and may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, editors, journalists, etc. as the case may be.

Content on private satellite TV channels is required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which, inter alia, provides that no content which contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths is broadcast on private satellite TV channels. Cable Television Network (Amendment) Rules 2021, provides for a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into the complaints relating to the violation of the Code by the TV channels.

Appropriate action is taken where violation of Programme Code is found.

For the content of publishers of news and current affairs on digital media, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) prescribes a Code of Ethics which, inter-alia, requires them to adhere to the Norms of Journalistic Conduct and Programme Code.

A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has been set up under Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2019 to check fake news relating to the Central Government. After verifying the authenticity of news from authorised sources in Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, FCU posts correct information on its social media platforms.

\*\*\*\*\*