

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2171
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2024**

PLANS TO REGULATE FAKE NEWS

2171. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which Government plans to regulate the challenge of fake news flooding in news channels and social media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action in the past against such channels or medias who have spread fake news in the last five years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN)**

(a) to (d) : All private TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, inter-alia, provides that 'no programme should contain anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths'.

Further under the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 dated 17th June, 2021, the Government has laid down a statutory three level grievance redressal mechanism to address grievances relating to violation of the

Programme Code and Advertising Code. In cases where violation of the Programme Codes and Advertising Codes is established, action is taken by issuance of Advisories, Warnings, Apology Scroll Orders, Off-air Orders etc. Since 2020, action has been taken in 143 cases for violation of Programme Code and Advertising Code.

For news on digital media, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the Information Technology Act, 2000 on 25.02.2021, which, inter-alia, provides for a Code of Ethics to be followed by digital news publishers and a three level grievance redressal mechanism for addressing complaints relating to violation of the Code of Ethics by such publishers.

Further, a Fact Check Unit (FCU) has been setup in November, 2019 under the Press Information Bureau of this Ministry. This unit 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. The unit responds to the relevant queries with correct information when the same pertains to Central Government or forwards them to States/UTs in other cases. The Unit also maintains a twitter account @PIBFactcheck and posts cases of fake news, being busted, on regular basis.
