

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1530
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2025)

ANTI-INDIA PROPAGANDA ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

1530. DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that from time to time certain channels keep coming on YouTube and other social media platforms with specific content and intention to defame India, spreading anti-India propaganda, fake news and content deemed detrimental to the country's sovereignty, integrity, national security and public order;
- (b) the mechanism Government has to track and identify such channels; and
- (c) the names of such channels identified in last five years and action taken against such channels?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (c):

Free speech is protected under Article 19(1) of the Constitution. The Government of India is also cognisant of the increasing instances of fake, false and misleading information across digital media platforms.

It has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, under the Information Technology Act, 2000, (dated 25th February, 2021).

Part-III of these Rules inter alia provides for Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs. It includes adherence to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks Act, 1995, and the Norms of Journalistic Conduct under the Press Council Act, 1978.

A three-tier grievance redressal mechanism for adherence to the Code of Ethics is also provided under the IT Rules.

Also, Part II of the IT Rules, inter alia, casts an obligation on intermediaries like YouTube and Facebook to prevent the dissemination of information that is patently false, untrue, or misleading in nature.

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 authorized sources in Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, FCU posts correct information on its social media platforms.

Under the Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, Government issues necessary orders to block websites, social media handles and posts in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, and public order.
