

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2339
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2026**

STEPS TO CURB SPREAD OF FAKE NEWS AND MISINFORMATION

2339 SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study on the spread of misinformation through digital platforms;
- (b) the mechanisms used to counter fake news; and
- (c) the safeguards to protect freedom of expression?

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

(a) to (c):

Various statutory and institutional mechanisms have been put in place to curb the instances of fake, false and misleading information across media platforms.

Electronic Media

- TV channels follow the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995
- It prohibits content that is obscene, defamatory, deliberately false, or that contains suggestive innuendos and half-truths.
- Rules framed under the act establish a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to address violations.
 - Level I – Self-regulation by the broadcasters
 - Level II – Regulation by broadcasters' self-regulatory bodies
 - Level III – Oversight mechanism by the Central Government

Violation of the Programme Code is addressed through advisories, warnings, apology scrolls, temporary off-air directions, etc.

Print Media

- Norms of Journalistic Conduct issued by Press Council of India restrain the publication of fake, defamatory, or misleading news.
- PCI can inquire into alleged violations of these norms.

- PCI duly examines complaints and takes measures such as warning, admonishing or censuring the newspaper, editors, journalists, etc.

Digital Media

- Code of Ethics has been framed under IT Rules 2021 for publishers of news and current affairs on digital media.
- Intermediaries must prevent users from sharing misinformation or information which is patently false and untrue or misleading in nature.
- A three-tier grievance redressal mechanism for adherence to the Code of Ethics is also provided.
- The Grievance Officer is appointed by platforms to handle complaints related to false or defamatory content within a fixed timeframe.
- Part II of the IT Rules, inter alia, casts an obligation on intermediaries to prevent the dissemination of information that is patently false, untrue, or misleading in nature.

A Fact Check Unit (FCU) is set up under the Press Information Bureau to check fake news relating to the Central Government. It verifies the authenticity of news from authorised sources in Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, and posts correct information on its social media platforms.
