

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *299**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 07TH AUGUST, 2018/ SHRAVANA 16, 1940 (SAKA)

DEATHS DUE TO FAKE NEWS

***299. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of increasing events of mishappenings and deaths due to false propaganda and spreading of fake news through digital media;

(b) if so, the number of deaths and mishappenings reported in the country during the last two years due to fake news propaganda through digital media, State/ UT-wise;

(c) the number of victims out of the above who belong to minority communities;

(d) whether the Government is taking any action to prevent such mishappenings in the future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *299 FOR 07.08.2018 REGARDING DEATHS DUE TO FAKE NEWS

(a) to (e): As per the Constitutional scheme, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects. State Governments are responsible for controlling crime, maintaining law and order, and protecting the life and property of the citizens. They are empowered to enact and enforce laws to curb crime in their jurisdiction. Central Government does not maintain data of deaths and mishappenings on account of circulation of fake news. However, Government is aware of the misuse of digital media for circulation of fake and unverified news which have the potential to incite violence and other disturbances to public order and has, from time to time, issued advisories to States/UTs for maintenance of public order and prevention of crime in their areas of jurisdiction. Two advisories on addressing the issue of mob violence and lynching fuelled by circulation of fake news and rumors were issued on 04.07.2018 and 23.07.2018. Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued guidelines to law enforcement agencies for taking action under Section 79 (3) (b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, for removal of unlawful information and contents prejudicial to public order.
