

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *294
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21-03-2023**

FACT CHECKING WING AT PIB

***294. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:
DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:**

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

- a) whether the Government is planning to establish a fact check wing at the Press Information Bureau (PIB);
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether the Government has prepared any standard operating procedure/manual to conduct the fact checking;
- d) if so, the details thereof;
- e) whether the PIB has employed/hired the domain experts/agencies to carry out the fact checking;
- f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- g) the details of the budget that has been allotted to the PIB for such fact checking activities?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g)
OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *294
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(a) to (d): A Fact Check Unit has been setup under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry in November, 2019 which 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 relating to subject concerning the Central Government. The Unit also maintains a twitter account @PIBFactcheck and posts cases of fake news, being busted, on the same on regular basis. PIB Fact Check Unit has so far responded to 37,000 actionable queries and has busted over 1,160 fake news. The FCU works under FACT model i.e. Find, Assess, Create and Target and takes cognizance of news both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens.

(e) & (f) The fact checking is done by the Officers of PIB.

(g) No separate budget has been allotted for fact checking by PIB.

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