

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3273**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2023**

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO DEFINE FAKE NEWS**

**3273. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:**  
**SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:**  
**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:**  
**SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:**  
**SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:**  
**SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR:**  
**SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has defined "fake news" in light of Fact-Checking Units (FCUs) under the Ministry taking down information;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to use any form of Artificial Intelligence in order to determine fake news; and
- (c) if so, the details of criteria does the Government use for choosing AI fact-checking?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) The Government has statutory and institutional mechanisms in place to combat fake news, including the following:**
- i) A Fact Check Unit has been set up under Press Information Bureau under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2019 which takes cognizance of fake news relating to the Central Government both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and social media. The**

**Unit responds to the relevant queries with correct and updated information.**

**ii) For Print Media, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978, has framed “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” for adherence by the media. These norms inter alia stress upon Accuracy and Fairness, Pre-publications Verification, distinction between Conjecture, speculation, comment and fact avoiding sensational / provocative headings and justification for the matter printed under them, etc.**

**In case of violation of Norms, as per section 14 of the Act, after holding an inquiry, PCI may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalists as the case may be.**

**iii) For Television, all TV Channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, including that programmes should not contain anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths;**

**iv) For digital news publishers, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the IT Act, 2000 on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, which inter alia provides for a Code of Ethics for adherence by digital news publishers.**

**Appropriate action is taken by the Government and the Press Council in case of violation of the Codes etc.**

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