

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4557  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2023**

**REGULATION ON FAKE NEWS**

**4557. SHRI E.T.MOHAMMED BASHEER:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to frame any new policy formulation / regulation on false or fake news;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has discussed the matter with the other countries having regulatory and legal mechanism to address the issue of fake news and allied matters; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (d) The Government has statutory and institutional mechanisms in place to regulate fake news including the following:**

- (i) A Fact Check Unit (FCU) 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 relating to the Central Government. The Unit also maintains a twitter account @PIBFactcheck and posts case of fake news, being busted, on it on a regular basis. The FCU works under the 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.**

- (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, which inter alia provides that no**

**contents which contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths is broadcast. The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021, has been notified on 17.6.2021 which provides for a three tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into the complaints relating to the violation of the Programme Code by the TV channels. Appropriate action is taken where violation of Programme Code is found. The Central Government also issues Advisories to the TV Channels from time to time for adherence to the Programme Code.**

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

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

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