

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 915
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2023

MAINTAINING CREDIBILITY OF SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS PORTALS.

915. SHRI KISHAN KAPOOR:

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

(a) the details of effective legal measures taken by the Ministry to maintain the credibility of news portals running on Facebook and YouTube social media;

(b) whether it is mandatory to take permission from the Government to run news channels on social media; and

(c) if so, the number of such news channels running on social media in the country which have taken permission?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (c): The Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000. These Rules inter- alia provide for the following:-

- i. Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms);**
- ii. A three-level Grievance Redressal Mechanism for looking into complaints relating to the violation of Code of Ethics by such publishers; and**
- iii. Furnishing of information by the publishers to the Government and periodical disclosure of information in public domain regarding grievance redressal.**

There is no requirement for digital media publishers for seeking prior permission with the Ministry. Under the Rules, the publishers are required to furnish certain information to the Ministry. Over 2,800 digital news publishers have furnished information to the Government under the Rules.
