

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1405  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2023**

**FACT-CHECKING UNITS**

**1405. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:**

**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) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to use Artificial Intelligence in order to determine fake news and deepfake;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other measures being taken by the Government to check fake news and deepfake?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (b) 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 and, posts correct information on its social media platforms.

For the purpose of fact checking, the FCU treats any news as fake/false news, which is found to be factually incorrect after its verification from relevant authorised sources.

(c) to (e): The Central Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 which cast specific obligation on intermediaries or platforms to observe due diligence by way of making reasonable efforts to cause the user of its computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, etc any illegal information that deceives or misleads the addressee about the origin of the message or knowingly and intentionally communicates any information which is patently false and untrue or misleading in nature, to enjoy the safe harbour protection under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

To prevent the harms caused by misinformation through deepfakes, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued advisories dated 06.11.2023 and 07.11.2023 to significant social media intermediaries and platforms directing them to take all reasonable measures to remove or disable such content on their platforms.

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