

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1452
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2023**

UNETHICAL BENEFITS THROUGH PAID NEWS

1452. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

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

- (a) whether financial and other unethical benefits are being derived through paid news during the General Election in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban this practice;
- (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) Election Commission of India has mechanism at the national, state and district levels to receive complaints relating to 'Paid News' and take necessary remedial action. The expenditure involved in such cases is included in the election expenditure of the candidates against which the paid news cases are confirmed.

The 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' brought out by Press Council of India (PCI) have specific Norms relating to treatment of paid news. PCI conduct inquiry into the complaints relating to paid news under the provisions of Rule 14 of Press Council Act, 1978.
