

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1011
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2020**

PAID NEWS

1011. SHRI NATARAJAN P. R.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:-

- a) whether the Government is aware that emergence of “Paid News” phenomenon in media world is distorting parliamentary democracy in India and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- b) the number of such cases brought to the notice of the Government and the names of the media channels/ houses who have been found involved therein; and
- c) the action taken/ being taken by the Government to curb this phenomenon in the Indian media?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE:
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER
OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
{SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR}**

(a) to (c) The Press Council of India (PCI) has an institutional mechanism for redressing any complaint including complaints on ‘Paid News’ and the same is dealt in accordance with the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulation, 1979 which enables it to warn, admonish or censure a newspaper, news agency, editor or a journalist. Adjudications done by PCI are available on the website of PCI <http://presscouncil.nic.in>.

Election Commission of India (ECI) has a well-structured mechanism at the national, state and district levels to receive complaints relating to 'Paid News' and take necessary remedial action. The expenditure involved in these cases is included in the election expenditure of the candidates against which the paid news cases are confirmed.

The Election Commission of India has informed that a large number of cases of paid news have been reported to it during the year 2017 to 2019 in the General election to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies as under:

General Elections to	No. of cases reported
State Legislative Assemblies	799
Lok Sabha - 2019	4302
