

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3173
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2021**

FACT CHECK MODULE ON FAKE NEWS

**3173. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken serious note of rising incidences of fake news on social media and digital platforms and has decided to set up a fact-checking module under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has planned to devise a FACT check module basically based on four principles of Find, Assess, Create and Target (FACT), which involves round-the-clock monitoring of online news sources and social media posts if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the FACT check mechanism can also be expanded to the electronic media in near future and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of such cases of fake news reported against the Government and Government establishments during the last 2 years along with the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Government is aware of incidents of fake news in various media platform. A Fact Check Unit has been setup under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry in November, 2019. This Unit takes cognizance of fake news both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and whatsapp. The Unit responds to the relevant queries with correct information when the same pertains to Central Government or forwards them to States/UTs in other cases. The Unit also maintains a twitter account @PIBFactcheck and posts cases of fake news, being busted, on the same on regular basis.

(c) & (d) The Fact Check Unit of PIB covers news on various media platforms, including electronic media.
