

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1490  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021**

**VIOLENCE DUE TO FAKE NEWS**

**1490. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN :  
SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL :**

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

- a) whether the Government is aware of the number of violence and suicides cases due to fake news being spread through electronic and other social media network, if so, the details thereof;
- b) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the spread of such fake news, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- c) whether the measures taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the spread of fake news include active participation by the youth, if so, the details thereof;
- d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against such culprits who is disturbing the peace and social harmony in the country; and
- e) whether the Government proposes to bring in a legislation to control such malicious activities and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities of maintaining law and order, including investigation, registration/ prosecution of crimes, conviction of accused, protection of life and property etc. rests primarily with the**

**respective State Governments. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories to States and UTs, from time to time, to maintain law and order and ensure that any person who takes law into his/her own hand is punished promptly as per law.**

**(b) & (c) Government has statutory and institutional mechanisms in place to prevent spread of fake news, including the following:**

**A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has been set up under Press Information Bureau (PIB) in November, 2019 which takes cognizance of fake news both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and social media. FCU maintains a presence across prominent social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram and Koo, the primary audience of which are the youth.**

**The FCU responds to the relevant queries with correct and updated information. PIB Fact Check Unit has responded to 28,578 actionable queries till date.**

**For Print Media, Press Council of India has framed 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' under the Press Council Act, 1978 which inter alia emphasize the principles of accuracy and fairness.**

**For Television, all TV Channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, including that programmes should not contain anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths.**

**For digital news publishers, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics**

**Code) Rules, 2021 under the IT Act, 2000 on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, which inter alia provides for a Code of Ethics for adherence by digital news publishers.**

**Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using Internet and advising them not to share rumors/fake news. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) provides all the relevant awareness material. MeitY also publishes advisories to curb false news / misinformation.**

**(d) & (e) The Government takes action in appropriate cases where violation of the Codes are found. It also issues advisory from time to time to the media to adhere to the laid down Codes.**

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