

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3687**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12. 2021**

**FAKE INFORMATION ON WEBSITES**

**3687. SHRI PALLAB LOCHAN DAS**

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

**(a) whether various websites and videos provide fake information regarding various Government Schemes; and**

**(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the actions taken by the Government to curb such websites and videos?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND  
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

**(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):**

**(a) to (b):- The Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000, on 25th February, 2021. Part-III of these Rules inter-alia provide for Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs, which include adherence to the Programme Code laid down under Cable Television Networks Act, 1995 and Norms of Journalistic Conduct laid down under Press Council Act, 1978, alongwith a three level grievance redressal mechanism for adherence to the Code of Ethics. The Programme Code and Norms of Journalistic Conduct inter-alia require the publishers not to disseminate content which is inaccurate, misleading, false half-truths, etc.**

**A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has also been set up in November, 2019 under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry. 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 and responds to the relevant queries with correct information pertaining to the Central Government. The Unit also maintains a twitter account @PIBFactcheck and posts cases of fake news, being busted, on the same on regular basis. PIB Fact Check Unit has responded to 29,079 actionable queries.**

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