

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1435
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2022**

FACT CHECKING CELL

1435. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to fact-check the content being circulated on various platforms and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has set up any fact checking cell and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action against any news organization/ content-generating platforms for circulation of fake news/rumours or misleading information 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) & (b) The Government has statutory and institutional mechanisms in place to combat fake news including the following:

- (i) For Print Media, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978. PCI has framed “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” for adherence by the media, which includes specific norms to refrain Print Media from publication/ dissemination of fake/false news.**
- (ii) For Electronic Media, all television channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation)**

Act, 1995 in respect of all content broadcast by them. The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021, has been notified on 17.6.2021 which provides for a three tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into the complaints relating to the violation of the Programme Code by the TV channels.

- (iii) For news on digital media, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rule, 2021 under Information Technology Act which inter-alia provides for adherence of Code of Ethics by publishers of news on digital media and also three tier mechanism for redressal of grievance relating to Code of Ethics by them.**

A Fact Check Unit setup under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry in November, 2019 takes cognizance of fake news both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens and responds to the relevant queries with correct information. It 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 a Website Portal - <https://factcheck.pib.gov.in/> for reporting of fake news and for fact-checking of information by the citizens.

- (c) Appropriate action is taken in cases where violation of the Norms, Codes, etc. is found. The Government also issues advisory from time to time to the media to adhere to the laid down Codes.**

The Press Council of India also adjudicates cases related to Fake News and takes action thereupon.
