

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2707
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2022**

MISUSE OF PIB CARD

**2707. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:
SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of increasing instances of fake news in various mediums including print and electronic media and misuse of Press Information Bureau (PIB) card by various media houses and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has amended the guidelines for accreditation of journalists and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has released new guidelines for renewal of PIB accredited card for journalist in this regard 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) 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 (Television), all TV Channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995,**

(iii) For Digital news, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25th February, 2021, under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Appropriate action is taken in cases where violation of the Norms, Codes etc. are 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. The Central Media Accreditation Guidelines, 2022 dated 1st February, 2022 provides for suspension/ withdrawal of PIB Accreditation in case of its misuse.

(b) to (c) Recognizing the rapidly evolving media landscape in the country including emergence of digital media and to streamline the accreditation process, the Government has issued “The Central Media Accreditation Guidelines, 2022” dated 1st February, 2022 for grant of PIB accreditation cards to working journalists and other categories of persons at the headquarters of the Government of India in accordance with the eligibility criteria and other conditions, etc. laid down under these guidelines. The changes *inter-alia* include grant of PIB accreditation to the journalists working with digital news publishers, constitution of a sub-committee for quick decision making, adherence to various statutory compliances, etc.

The PIB is granting accreditation under the new Guidelines of 2022.
