

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3709
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

MONITORING OF HARMFUL ONLINE/DIGITAL CONTENT

3709. SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING:

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

(a) the mechanism to monitor harmful online/digital content including fake news and propaganda;

(b) whether there are many online e.g. Youtube channels which serve their propaganda as news;

(c) the mechanism followed/being adapted by the Government to check such social media channels which are serving fake news or distorting facts; and

(d) whether there is any mechanism to complaint against such channels or individuals offering distorted or biased information as news bearing malice towards an entity or an individual?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN):

(a) to (d): The Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000. Part-III of these Rules provides for Code of Ethics for publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms). The Code of Ethics for digital news publishers requires such publishers to adhere to the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' of the Press Council of India, The Programme Code under the Cable Television (Network Regulation Act, 1995).

So far as the content on intermediary platforms like YouTube, Facebook, etc. is concerned, Part-II of IT Rules, 2021 cast obligation on such platforms to make reasonable efforts by itself and to cause the user of their computer resource to not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, etc. knowingly and intentionally any information which is, inter-alia, patently false and untrue and is written and published in any form with the intent to mislead or harass a person, entity or agency for financial gain or to cause any injury to any person.

IT Rules, 2021 also cast an obligation on the social media intermediaries to appoint a Grievance Officer to look into complaints relating to violation of the Rules. Additionally, the Significant Social Media Intermediaries are also required to appoint a Chief Compliance Officers for ensuring compliance with the Act and rules made thereunder.
