

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 427
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024)

STRENGTHENING OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICES

427. SHRI E T MOHAMMED BASHEER:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to strengthen public broadcasting services to ensure reliable communication during emergencies; and**
- (b) the steps taken/being taken to combat misinformation and fake news on digital platforms?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) Expansion, development, upgradation and strengthening of broadcasting infrastructure and network for public broadcasting services including communication during emergencies is a continuous process. Public service broadcasters Akashvani and Doordarshan ensure timely dissemination of reliable information during emergencies.

Government supports Prasar Bharati for expanding broadcasting infrastructure through “Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development” (BIND) Scheme which has been approved at total cost of Rs. 2539.61 crore for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

(b) The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000 on 25.02.2021 which provides for an institutional mechanism for publishing of news and current affairs on digital media and OTT platforms.

Part III of these Rules inter-alia provide for a Code of Ethics for digital news publishers which requires them to adhere to the “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” of Press Council of India and the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules made there under which have specific provisions relating to fake, misleading news etc.

A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has been set up under Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2019 to counter fake news relating to the Central Government. After verifying the authenticity of news from authorised sources in Ministries/ Departments, FCU posts correct information on its social media platforms.
