

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 453
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024**

OMBUDSMAN FOR FAKE NEWS

453 SHRI RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI:

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

(a) whether the Government is taking any steps against those spreading fake news on social media across the country; and

(b) whether the Government is taking any steps to ask/get the social media companies to appoint an Ombudsman to prevent spreading incidents of fake news?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (b):- The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules, 2021") on 25.02.2021 under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

For the user generated content on intermediary/ social media platforms, Part-II of IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY), provides for due diligence by intermediaries and casts specific obligations on such intermediaries / social media intermediaries or platforms, to ensure that they are accountable for their platforms to be safe & trusted and do not carry any content that is violative of rule 3(1)(b) of IT Rules, 2021. These rules 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 also required to appoint a Chief Compliance Officers for ensuring compliance with the Act and rules made thereunder.
