

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2276
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

PAID NEWS DURING ELECTIONS

2276. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether some specific cases of paid news during various elections in the country or otherwise have come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty media companies and the people involved in these cases alongwith those benefiting from the said paid news;
- (d) the corrective steps taken by the Government to check the cases of paid news; and
- (e) the details of such cases reported from Rajasthan?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Election Commission of India has established mechanism at the national, state and district levels to receive complaints relating to 'Paid News' and take action thereon. The expenditure involved in confirmed cases is included in the election expenditure of the candidates against whom the paid news cases are established.

The Press Council of India (PCI) takes action on the cases of paid news in print media reported by the Election Commission of India or general public under Regulation 14 of the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979 for violations of its “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” relating to paid news.

PCI also takes Suo-motu cognizance under Regulation 13 on observing any grave violation of norms on paid news by the newspapers.

PCI has informed that the details of cases relating to paid news received by PCI during the last three years and current year from all over the country, are as under:

S.No.	Year	Number of Cases
1	2021-22	74
2	2022-23	76
3	2023-24	28
4	2024-25 (Till date)	290
TOTAL		468

Out of the above, thirteen (13) complaints of paid news in 2021-2022 and 111 complaints in 2024-25 were from the state of Rajasthan.

The Council takes action against the erring print media on case to case basis after following due procedure prescribed under Press Council of India Act, 1978 and if satisfied that it is necessary to do so warns, admonishes or censures the newspaper, news agency or editor/ journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist.
