

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3086
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025

COMBATING FAKE NEWS

3086. THIRU D M KATHIR ANAND:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken serious note of proliferation of fake news and inappropriate news by all kinds of media Print, Visual and Web;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any concrete steps to tackle and curb the menace of fake news in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to bring a legislation in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (d): The Government takes all possible actions to control the spread of fake and misleading information which has potential to adversely affect the society at large. In this regard, the Government has various statutory and institutional mechanisms in place to address fake news on various media platforms.

For Print Media, the newspapers have to adhere to “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” brought out by the Press Council of India (PCI) which, inter alia, restrains publication of fake/defamatory/ misleading news. The Council holds inquiry into alleged violations of Norms, as per section 14 of the Act, and may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, editors, journalists, etc. as the case may be.

The content on private satellite TV channels is required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which, inter alia, provides that no content which contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths is broadcast on private satellite TV channels. Cable Television Network (Amendment) Rules 2021, provides for a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into the complaints relating to the violation of the Code by the TV channels. Appropriate action is taken where violation of Programme Code is found.

For the content of publishers and news and current affairs on digital media, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021(IT Rules, 2021) provides for a Code of Ethics for such publishers.

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