

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1747**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 30-07-2025**

**FAKE NEWS**

1747. SMT. SANDHYA RAY:

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

- (a) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to curb fake news; and
- (b) the details of the steps being taken against those who promote such fake news?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): The Government takes all possible steps to curb fake news with the available statutory and institutional mechanisms on various media platforms, which include:

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

- **Television media:** TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which, inter alia, provides that content which contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths is not broadcast. 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.
- **Digital media:** For the publishers of 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.

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 authorized sources in Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, FCU posts correct information on its social media platforms.

Under the Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000, Government issues necessary orders to block websites, social media handles and posts in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, and public order.

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