

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1824**

**(TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025)**

**CASES OF MANIPULATED VIDEOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**1824. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:**

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

**(a) the details of the number of reported cases involving the circulation of false data, fake news or manipulated videos on social and digital media platforms during the last three years along with the action taken in each case;**

**(b) the details of mechanisms currently exist to verify and act upon the dissemination of false statistical or economic data particularly when such data is used to mislead the public or influence policy debates;**

**(c) the details of misinformation and deliberately targeted news content intended to defame individuals, institutions or political groups and the legal recourse exists for victims of such targeted misinformation campaigns;**

**(d) whether there is any independent oversight on the functioning of Government-authorised fact-checking bodies to ensure that they do not suppress dissent or critical journalism under the pretext of curbing fake news and if so, the details thereof; and**

**(e) whether there is any specific strategy to detect and counter deepfakes, AI-generated false content and digitally altered narratives that spread misinformation during elections or communal tensions?**

## **ANSWER**

### **THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**(DR. L. MURUGAN)**

**(a) to (e): Government has a sovereign duty to tackle fake news and misinformation.**

**Legal Provisions to counter misinformation 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) provide 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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