

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2824**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025**

**ACTION AGAINST MISINFORMATION**

2824. SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI:

SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR:

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

- a) the details of the total number of websites, news channels, social media accounts and other media forms that have been taken down/suspended due to them being notified as fake news/misinformation by Fact Checking Units (FCUs) across the country, State-wise and especially those arising from Andhra Pradesh;
- b) the details of the total amount of fines collected from organisations/corporate entities and/or individuals who participate in spreading fake news/misinformation during the last five years, State-wise especially from Andhra Pradesh;
- c) whether the Government authorises private FCU's to identify and notify relevant authorities regarding misinformation/fake news being spread;
- d) if so, the details of private Fact Checking Units (FCUs) registered, recognised and/or authorised to identify fake news/misinformation during the last five years across the country, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- e) whether the Government has implemented any institutional framework/SOPs to verify and grade private FCUs from security point of view, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- f) whether the Government has undertaken any works to provide cybersecurity to fact checking units, if so, the details thereof?

## **ANSWER**

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

(a) to (f): Fake news and misinformation has potential to damage our social fabric.

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.

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.

Government of India has not authorized any private person to carry out fact check.

Other legal provisions to address misinformation include:

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.

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