

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4417

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025)

FAKE NEWS ABOUT NATIONAL LEADERS

4417. SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the malicious lies and fake news about our National Leaders including Gandhi, Nehru and Patel through various online and social media platforms;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not initiating legitimate actions for spreading false news and gossip about our National Leaders; and
- (c) the details of the criminal actions taken against any person or media for spreading lies and false news about our National Leaders?

ANSWER

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

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (c):

The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, under the Information Technology Act, 2000, (dated 25th February, 2021).

Part-III of these Rules inter alia provides for Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs. It includes adherence to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks Act, 1995, and the Norms of Journalistic Conduct under the Press Council Act, 1978.

A three-tier grievance redressal mechanism for adherence to the Code of Ethics is also provided under the IT Rules.

The Programme Code and Norms of Journalistic Conduct, inter alia, require publishers not to disseminate content that is inaccurate, misleading, false, or half-truths.

Also, Part II of the IT Rules, administered by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), inter alia, casts an obligation on intermediaries to prevent the dissemination of information that is patently false, untrue, or misleading in nature.

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.
