

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 611

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025)

CRIME ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

611. SHRI KHALILUR RAHAMAN:

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

(a) whether the crime on Social Media Platforms have increased manifold in the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of cases that have been registered against persons and institutions for spreading hatred and fake news during the last five years; and

(c) the details of the conviction rate in this regard?

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 like YouTube and Facebook to prevent the dissemination of information that is patently false, untrue, or misleading in nature.

The data related to the number of cases registered against individuals and institutions for spreading hatred and fake news can be accessed on the website of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) at <https://www.ncrb.gov.in/>.
