

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION No. *43
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025)

FAKE NEWS

***43. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:**

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the circulation of fake and misleading news by the social media sector including private sector news channels;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken cognisance of such news and taken action thereon;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take any action such as complete ban on these news channels and social media and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND ELECTRONICS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *43 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025 ON FAKE NEWS**

(a) to (d): Free speech is protected under Article 19(1) of the Constitution. Government of India is cognisant of the increasing instances of fake, false and misleading information across media platforms.

Various statutory and institutional mechanisms have been put in place to curb the spread of such content.

Electronic Media

- TV channels follow the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995
- It prohibits content that is obscene, defamatory, deliberately false, or that contains suggestive innuendos and half-truths.
- Rules framed under the act establish a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to address violations.
 - Level I – Self-regulation by the broadcasters
 - Level II – Regulation by broadcasters' self-regulatory bodies
 - Level III – Oversight mechanism by the Central Government

Violation of the Programme Code is addressed through advisories, warnings, apology scrolls, temporary off-air directions, etc

Print Media

- Norms of Journalistic Conduct issued by Press Council of India restrain the publication of fake, defamatory, or misleading news.
- PCI can inquire into alleged violations of these norms.
- PCI duly examines complaints and takes measures such as warning, admonishing or censoring the newspaper, editors, journalists, etc.

Digital Media:

Code of Ethics has been framed under IT Rules 2021 for publishers of news and current affairs on digital media:

- Intermediaries must prevent users from sharing misinformation or information which is patently false and untrue or misleading in nature.
- A three-tier grievance redressal mechanism for adherence to the Code of Ethics is also provided.
- The Grievance Officer is appointed by platforms to handle complaints related to false or defamatory content within a fixed timeframe.

- Part II of the IT Rules, inter alia, casts an obligation on intermediaries to prevent the dissemination of information that is patently false, untrue, or misleading in nature.

The government issues the orders under Section 69A of the IT Act in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.

Fact Check Unit

The Fact Check Unit (FCU) is set up under the Press Information Bureau to check fake news relating to the Central Government.

- It verifies the authenticity of news from authorised sources in Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.
- FCU then posts correct information on its social media platforms.

This framework safeguards creative freedom while addressing the harms caused by misinformation.
