

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1962
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 11.02.2026

CIRCULATION OF FRAUDULENT FINANCIAL SCHEMES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

1962. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of videos circulating on social media platforms are propagating fraudulent financial schemes and misleading social narratives;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to regulate, monitor and curb the dissemination of such content;
- (c) the number of persons who have been booked, charged or prosecuted in connection with such cases during the last three years, year and State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the policy framework or action plan proposed by the Government to effectively prevent the spread of such fraudulent and misleading videos on social media platforms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d): The policies of Government of India are aimed at ensuring open, safe, trusted and accountable cyberspace for users in the country. The Government is cognizant of the risks and harms arising from the misuse of digital technologies including the misuse of social media platforms.

The Information Technology Act, 2000 (“IT Act”) has provisions for removal of unlawful online content. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules”), require that the intermediaries, which includes social media platforms, shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that deceives or misleads the addressee about the origin of message or knowingly and intentionally communicates any misinformation or information that is patently false and untrue or misleading in nature or is unlawful in any way.

Where any information falls within the categories prohibited under this Rule, any user may make a request to the Grievance Officer of the concerned intermediary on whose platform such unlawful information is made available to the public. Upon receipt of such request, the intermediary must act expeditiously within the timelines prescribed under IT Rules, 2021. In case the user is aggrieved by the decision of an intermediary’s Grievance Officer or does not receive timely redressal, user may prefer an appeal to the Grievance Appellate Committee within thirty days of the receipt of communication from the Grievance Officer.

Section 79 of the Information Technology Act provides that intermediaries are required to disable/remove unlawful content through a court order or on being notified by appropriate government or its agency. In case of failure to observe due diligence as provided in the IT Rules, intermediaries lose the exemption from liability for any third-party information, data or communication link, under section 79 of the IT Act.

MeitY through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using Internet and advising them not to share rumors/fake news. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) provides relevant awareness material.

As per records maintained by NCRB, the State/UT-wise cases registered, cases charge sheeted, and cases convicted under fake news on social media for cybercrimes (involving communication devices as medium/target) during 2021- 2023 is placed in **Annexure I**.

Annexure - I

State/UT-wise Cases Registered(CR), Cases Chargesheeted(CCS), Cases Convicted(CON), Persons Arrested(PAR), Persons Chargesheeted(PCS) and Persons Convicted(PCV) under Fake News on Social Media under Cyber Crimes during 2021-2023																			
Sl	State/UT	2021						2022						2023					
		CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV	CR	CCS	CON	PAR	PCS	PCV
1	Andhra Pradesh	14	18	0	16	19	0	15	10	1	11	11	1	24	15	0	21	23	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	5	1	0	5	1	0	3	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	3	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	14	3	0	2	3	0
5	Chhattisgarh	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	2	7	0	6	8	0	1	1	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0
12	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	6	7	0	8	8	0	15	14	0	16	14	0	4	3	0	0	3	0
14	Maharashtra	15	12	0	12	16	0	23	3	0	4	3	0	10	1	0	0	1	0
15	Manipur	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
17	Mizoram	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
21	Rajasthan	7	5	0	5	5	0	5	2	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	23	6	0	11	12	0	37	7	0	55	40	0	35	10	4	23	14	4
24	Telangana	34	50	0	29	63	0	81	45	0	17	52	0	98	33	7	31	39	7
25	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	24	16	0	27	26	0	36	36	30	51	51	30	11	8	0	12	11	0
27	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	43	23	0	21	24	0	10	8	0	12	10	0	7	7	0	8	11	0
	TOTAL STATE(S)	179	148	0	145	185	0	230	127	31	178	189	31	209	82	11	98	107	11
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Di	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	179	148	0	145	185	0	230	128	31	179	190	31	209	82	11	98	107	11
