

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2482
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023**

TELECASTING FAKE NEWS

2482. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

- (a) the number of cases that have come in the cognizance of Government about spreading of fake news against India by other countries during the last two years;
- (b) country-wise and channel-wise details of action taken by India on such television channels during the said period;
- (c) whether there is any law against fake news in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether Government is deliberating on introducing a law to contain fake news in the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

- (a) to (d) The Government addresses fake news in accordance with the existing laid down laws and procedures. Under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) notified on 25th February, 2021 under the Information Technology Act, 2000, Government has since December, 2021 issued directions for blocking of 120 YouTube based news channels, including 69 operating from outside India in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India and other conditions laid down under section 69 A of IT Act, 2000. The various instruments for combating fake news include the following:-**
- i) A Fact Check Unit has been set up in Press Information Bureau under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November,**

2019 which takes cognizance of fake news relating to the Central Government both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and social media. The Unit responds to the relevant queries with correct and updated information.

- ii) For Print Media, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978, has framed “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” for adherence by the media. These norms inter alia stress upon Accuracy and Fairness, Pre-publications verification, distinction between conjecture, speculation, comment and fact avoiding sensational / provocative headings and justification for the matter printed under them, etc.**
- iii) For Television, all private satellite TV Channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, including that programmes should not contain anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths;**
- iv) For digital news publishers, IT Rules, 2021 inter alia provide for a Code of Ethics for adherence by them, along with a 3-tier grievance redressal mechanism to address the grievances relating to violation of the Code.**

Appropriate action is taken in case of violation of the Codes, etc.
