

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1915
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2023**

MENACE OF FAKE NEWS

**1915. SHRI P.C.MOHAN:
SHRI LALLU SINGH:**

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

- (a) the details of steps taken by the Government to counter the menace of fake news in the country;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to counter fake news on social media including mandating appointment of ombudsman by Social media Companies to check fake news; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government has statutory and institutional mechanisms in place to combat fake news including the following:

- i) A Fact Check Unit has been set up under 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 TV Channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code 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, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the IT Act, 2000 on 25th February, 2021, which inter alia provides for a Code of Ethics for adherence by digital news publishers along with a 3-Tier grievance redressal mechanism.**

Appropriate action is taken by the Government and the Press Council in case of violation of the Codes etc.
