

**Precautionary measures on fake news**

1515. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any precautionary measures on fake news being published in various newspapers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of press, the Government does not interfere in the functioning of newspaper industry. However, the Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. In order to inculcate principles of self-regulation amongst the Press, the Council under section 13(2) of the Act, has framed “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” for adherence by the media. These norms cover principles and ethics of journalism and also the guidelines for news reporting.

The complaints of content in print media which are violative of the ethical norms of journalism, public taste or professional conduct are adjudicated by the Council in exercise of its powers provided under section 14 of the Act. As per section 14 of the Act read with Press Council (Procedure of Inquiry) Regulations, 1979 the Council, after holding an inquiry, may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist as the case may be.

**Mann ki Baat**

1516. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to introduce and broadcast ‘Mann ki Baat’ concerning Chief Ministers of different States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to broadcast “Mann ki Baat” concerning Chief Ministers.