

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 68
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

FAKE NEWS

68. Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- a) the number of fake news reports received by Government during the last year till date, spread on social media and the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether there have been instances of protests and mob riots in relation to the spread of such fake news and the details of incidents thereof; and
- (c) the initiatives taken by Government to put the perpetrators to book under law and the details thereof ?

ANSWER

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

(a) A Fact Check Unit has been setup under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry in November, 2019. This unit takes cognizance of fake news both suo-motu and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and whatsapp. The unit responds to the relevant queries with correct information when the same pertains to Central Government or forwards them to States/UTs in other cases. The Unit also maintains a twitter account @PIBFactcheck and posts cases of fake news, being busted, on the same on regular basis.

PIB Fact Check Unit has responded to 25,021 actionable queries till 8th July, 2021. State wise detail of such queries is not maintained.

The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000. These Rules inter alia provide for Code of Ethics for adherence by publishers of news and current affairs, and publishers of online curated content.

(b) & (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities of maintaining law and order including investigation, registration/prosecution of crime, conviction of accused, protection of life and property etc. rests primarily with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government keeps a constant watch on the internal security scenario of the country through its security agencies and responds appropriately to the emergent situation. Among other measures, alerts and advisories are issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations and their law enforcement agencies whenever any threat to internal security is perceived.
