

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2159  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16/12/2021**

**FAKE AND UNVERIFIED NEWS BY NEWS CHANNELS**

**2159. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the increasing fake news and unverified news by various news channels in the country;
- (b) whether steps have been taken to monitor the content of news and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether cases have been initiated for prosecution against such media outlets for peddling fake news, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): News telecast on private TV channels is regulated in terms of Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks Act, 1995 and the Rules framed there under. Under the Programme code, content which is defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendoes and half-truths cannot be telecast.

The Government issues advisories from time to time to private TV channels for adherence to the Programme Code. In cases where violation of the Programme Code is established, action is taken by issuance of Advisories, Warnings, Apology scroll and Off-air orders. Since 2018, such action has been taken in 142 cases.

A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has also been setup in November, 2019 under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry. 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 29,079 actionable queries.

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