

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2144  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/08/2022**

**COMPLAINT MECHANISM TO REPORT FAKE NEWS**

**2144. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR:**

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has established any complaint mechanism to prohibit the broadcasting/ hosting/ spreading of fake news, harmful, obscene, adult, insensitive, prohibited, violent, unlawful, indecent, immoral and defamatory (individuals, families, societies and communities) material, on national mainstream news channels, YouTube channels and various social media platforms, where anyone can register his/her objection on the above subjects and can also see the registered objection in a transparent manner; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): Programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels have to adhere to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. Under the Programme Code, content which is defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendoes and half-truths cannot be telecast. The Central Government has amended the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 vide notification No. G.S.R. 416(E) dated 17.06.2021 to provide for a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances/ complaints of violation of Programme Code and Advertising Codes of the broadcast by Television channels.

For digital news publishers, the Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Codes) Rules, 2021 under the IT Act, 2000 on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 which inter-alia provide for a Code of Ethics for adherence by digital news publishers and a grievance redressal mechanism.

The Government takes action in appropriate cases where violation of Programme Code and Code of Ethics are found. The Government issues advisories from time to time to the media for adherence to the laid down Codes.

A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has also been setup in November, 2019 under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry which 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, and responds to the relevant queries with correct information.

PIB Fact Check Unit has a website Portal – <https://factcheck.pib.gov.in/> for reporting of fake news and for fact checking of information by the citizens. The Unit also maintains a twitter account @PIBFactcheck and posts cases of fake news being busted on a regular basis.

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