

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1032
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022**

HATE SPEECH ON NEWS MEDIA

1032 SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government in curbing hate speech on news media including print, tv or digital;
- (b) the details on the major issue which has been the reason behind hate speech in news media; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in tackling the spread of misinformation over hate crimes by news media?

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 with regard to conduct on print, TV and digital platforms, including the following:

- (i) 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 emphasize the principles of accuracy and fairness, caution against defamatory writings,**

responsibility of media in promoting communal peace and unity, etc.

- (ii) For Electronic Media, all television channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 including that programme should not contain attack on religions or communities; contain anything defamatory; criticizes, maligns or slanders any individual or linguistic or regional groups, etc.**
- (iii) For digital media, the Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rule, 2021 under Information Technology Act which inter-alia provides for adherence of Code of Ethics by publishers of news on digital media and also a three tier mechanism for redressal of grievance relating to Code of Ethics.**

Appropriate action is taken in cases where violation of the Norms, Codes, etc. is found.

A Fact Check Unit setup under Press Information Bureau of this Ministry in November, 2019 takes cognizance of fake news/ misinformation both *suo-motu* and by way of queries sent by citizens and responds to the relevant queries with correct information. It 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 a Website Portal - <https://factcheck.pib.gov.in/> for reporting of fake news and for fact-checking of information by the citizens.
