

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 562**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

ACTION AGAINST FAKE NEWS CHANNELS

562 SH. SANJEEV ARORA:

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

(a) the steps Government has taken to make sure that fake news channels are shut down; and

(b) the number of channels which have been forced to shut down in the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rule, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) under Information Technology Act, 2000 which inter-alia provides for adherence of Code of Ethics laid down under the Rules by publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms) and a three tier mechanism for redressal of grievance relating to violation of the Code of Ethics by them. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has, since December, 2021, issued directions for blocking from public access of 122 YouTube based news channels for carrying content violative of section 69A of IT Act, 2000 in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the above.

For electronic media, all private satellite television channels are inter-alia required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in respect of content broadcast by them. The Act also provides for a three tier grievance redressal mechanism for addressing grievances relating to the violation of the Codes by the TV channels. Appropriate action is taken where violation of the Codes is found.
