

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*377**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025**

**PIB FACT CHECK UNIT**

\*377. SHRI G KUMAR NAIK:

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

- (a) the criteria and methodology used by the PIB Fact Check Unit to identify and verify fake news;
- (b) the details of instances where fact checking led to social media content takedowns;
- (c) whether an independent, non-partisan fact checking body is being considered by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures implemented/proposed to be implemented to prevent selective enforcement by PIB Fact Check Unit; and
- (e) the details of complaints received and resolved during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

**(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*377 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025 ON PIB FACT  
CHECK UNIT**

(a) to (e): A Fact Check Unit (FCU) has been set up under Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2019 with the objective to counter dissemination of fake news & misinformation pertaining to the Government of India.

People can send their complaints/fact check requests regarding news/information items circulating on matters pertaining to the Government of India via the WhatsApp Hotline- +918799711259 and the website of PIB Fact Check Unit - <https://factcheck.pib.gov.in>.

The Fact Check Unit of PIB follows a four-step model for verification of the reported news/content, as under:

- (1) Find: The PIB Fact Check Unit takes suo-moto cognizance on fact checking as well as receives complaints on its website or WhatsApp Hotline.
- (2) Assess: The Unit segregates the received information after ascertaining whether it falls within the ambit of the Fact Check Unit. The relevant complaints are researched using various fact checking tools and verified through authentic government open-source information available only on Government websites, notices, circulars, documents, and e-gazettes.
- (3) Create: After verifying the authenticity of the received information from authorized sources, the Fact Check Unit utilizes the Information, Education & Communication (IEC) strategy to create awareness through creative content fit for dissemination on social media platforms.
- (4) Target: FCU posts the fact checked and correct information on its social media handles.

The details of queries received and resolved by the FCU during the last three years and the current year is as below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Queries Received</b>	<b>Total Number of Actionable Queries</b>	<b>Number of Fake News Identified</b>
2022	25,626	8,107	338
2023	20,684	6,623	557
2024	21,404	6,320	583
2025 (as of 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025)	5,200	1,811	97