

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 676
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.02.2019

CIRCULATION OF FAKE CLIPS

676. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI :

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is any monitoring or evaluation of erroneous clips that induce panic or hate at the source of origin, to examine their validity before they are circulated widely and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to actively dismiss fake clips and to spread information regarding authenticity of clips;
- (c) whether the Government plans to take any steps to assist the Election Commission in preventing the viral spread of fake news before and during the upcoming general elections 2019; and
- (d) the details regarding digital transactions over the last 3 years since 2015, including details from new payment modes such as BHIM UPI, National Electronic Toll Collection, etc.?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): No, Sir. Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for circulation of erroneous clips that induce panic or hate is a global issue. Government is committed to freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution of India. Government does not monitor or regulate content appearing on internet.

(b): The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. Section 79 of the Act provides that intermediaries are required to disable/remove unlawful content on being notified by appropriate government or its agency. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act require that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is, inter alia, grossly harmful, harassing, defamatory, libellous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically objectionable, disparaging, or otherwise unlawful in any manner.

Government has taken several steps to actively dismiss fake clips and to spread information regarding authenticity of clips:

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) took note of media reports about spread of fake news, misinformation/disinformation on Internet particularly using WhatsApp platform and issued a notice to WhatsApp on 3.7.2018. In their response, WhatsApp conveyed a number of steps taken by them to address the issue of fake news propagated using their platform.
- Ministry of Home affairs (MHA) has issued a number of advisories which includes advisory on untoward incidents in the name of protection of cows dated 09.08.2016, advisory on cyber crime prevention and control dated 13.01.2018 and also an advisory on incidents of lynching by mobs in some States fuelled by rumours of lifting/kidnapping of children dated 04.07.2018.
- MeitY and MHA as well as Police are in regular touch with various social media platforms to effectively address the issue of removal of objectionable content.

- MeitY through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using Internet and advice not to share rumours/fake news. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) has also been set up where a module on fake news have been provided.

(c): MeitY assists other Government Ministries/Departments and Constitutional bodies like Election Commission, etc. as per the provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000.

(d): The details regarding digital transactions since 2015-16 is at Annexure.

Annexure

Growth of Digital Transaction in VOLUME : Oct, 2015 to Jan 2019 (Figures in Cr)					
#	Mode	Fy 2015-16 (Oct, 2015 to March, 2016)	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19 (Till 10 th Jan 2019)
NPCI					
1	NACH	77.25	196.88	237.49	219.15
2	IMPS	13.13	50.68	101.29	128.67
3	UPI + BHIM+USSD	0.00	1.79	91.52	343.31
4	RuPay (POS)	1.65	19.53	45.99	55.69
5	RuPay (eCom)	0.82	8.76	20.82	30.72
6	AEPS	6.91	34.47	98.45	124.78
7	BBPS		0.01	2.56	22.36
8	NETC		2.03	12.68	18.67
A	Sub Total	99.78	314.14	608.24	920.99
DATA SOURCED FROM RBI					
9	Debit Card (excluding RuPay)	61.12	212.69	267.59	216.01
10	Credit Card	41.33	108.72	140.51	114.03
11	NEFT	69.24	162.22	194.64	147.55
12	M-Wallet	30.43	163.00	302.60	262.65
13	RTGS	5.03	10.79	12.45	8.88
14	PPC	9.12	33.31	43.26	28.61
B	Sub Total	216.27	690.73	961.05	777.73
DATA SOURCED FROM CLOSED Loop Service Providers (Smart Card Transactions)					
C	CLOSED LOOP SERVICE PROVIDERS	35.88	81.65	115.09	62.01
DATA SOURCED FROM BANK(IntraBank Transactions)					
15	Internet Banking	0.00	0.00	149.34	118.50
16	Mobile Banking	0.00	0.00	66.20	84.78
17	Others	0.00	0.00	171.04	179.39
D	Sub Total (BANK)	0.00	0.00	386.59	382.66
	Total (A+B+C+D)	351.93	1086.51	2070.96	2143.39

AEPS: Aadhaar Enabled Payment System

ATM: Automated Teller Machine
BBPS: Bharat Bill Payment System
BHIM: Bharat Interface for Money
eCom: Electronic Commerce
IMPS: Immediate Payment Service
NACH: National Automated Clearing House
NETC: National Electronic Toll Collection
PoS: Point of Sale
PPC – Prepaid Card
RTGS – Real Time Gross Settlement
UPI: Unified Payments Interface
USSD: Unstructured Supplementary Service Data