

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1506**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021

**DEEPFAKE TECHNOLOGY**

**1506 SHRI T.R. BAALU:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 'Deepfakes' technology has alarming implication for national security, foreign relations, safety and security of women and children and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any preventive steps in light of the fact that audio deepfakes technology have been used to clone voices and defraud people along with breach privacy of the people and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there exists any legal provision in the Indian Penal code to deal with the said technology and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reason of delay, if any in the enacted of specific legislation to deal with the menace of this technology?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and(c): Government is aware of "Deepfake Technology" which enables to alter/create the image or video of a person with any other person's image or video using artificial neural networks and deep learning/machine learning techniques. These do represent security risk for individuals, enterprises and nations. Currently, sections 66C and 66D of the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000, which provides punishment and fine for identity theft and cheating by personation by using computer resource, are being used to deal with this challenge. Also section 416 of the Indian Penal Code deals with cheating by personation.

(b) and (d) : Government has taken measures to address challenges of deepfake technologies available on online platforms. These, *inter alia*, include :

- (i) The newly notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, mandates all intermediaries to take all reasonable and practicable measures to remove or disable access to such content which is in the nature of impersonation in an electronic form, including artificially morphed images of such individual, hosted, stored, published or transmitted by it.
- (ii) MeitY through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users and advising them not to share

rumors/fake news. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) provides relevant awareness material.

- (iii) Further for evolving technologies and their misuse like this, the Government continuously interacts with the stakeholders including identification of possible legislative changes.

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