

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF : INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3226

TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2019

Paid news on electronic print media

3226. Shri G.C. Chandrashekhhar

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

- (a) whether Government has received complaints about paid news in electronic and print media and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of complaints received about paid news in electronic and print media and those lodged by Press Council of India, by taking self-cognisance thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to frame any law or policy to check paid news and amend the Press Council Act as per the recommendations of the Election Commission of India and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; & MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
[SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR]

(a) & (b): Election Commission of India has a well structured mechanism to receive complaints relating to Paid News. The expenditure involved in these cases are included in the election expenditure of the candidates against which the paid news cases are confirmed.

Press Council of India has received 58 cases of Paid News during 2018-19 from Election Commission of India & others. These cases are dealt in accordance with Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulation, 1979.

No specific instance of paid news in electronic media (Private Satellite TV Channels) has been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(c): The Press Council of India has recommended amendment to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 in order to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice. The Election Commission of India has also recommended for including "Paid News" in the category of corrupt practices or electoral offences.

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