

Re: URGENT: Media Queries from Al Jazeera

4 messages

Rishabh Khandelwal

12 March 2022 at 14:12

To: "kumar.sambhav"

Hi Kumar,

With regards to your query, please find below our response-

Statement on elections ad policies:

"Anyone willing to advertise can run ads about elections or politics, provided the advertiser complies with all applicable laws and the authorization process required by Meta on its platforms. Where appropriate, we may restrict issue, electoral or political ads. We don't allow ads that violate our Ad Policies and also disable ads flagged to us by the Election Commission of India which we find in violation of local election laws." - **Meta Spokesperson**

Statement on working with ECI:

"Ahead of 2019 general elections, we joined other social media companies in a voluntary code of ethics for the general elections with the Election Commission of India (ECI). It includes measures like a dedicated communications channel for notice and take down after receiving valid legal order, processing of valid requests in the blackout period ahead of voting and voter education efforts. This builds on the ongoing dialogue we've had with the commission, as well as with the campaigns and political parties. The Voluntary Code was applicable for the recent state elections as well and we adhered to it in close association with the ECI" - **Meta Spokesperson**

Statement on CIB takedowns in 2019:

"We aggressively go after abuse around the world and have specialized teams focused on this work. Over the years, our teams investigated and publicly shared our findings about three CIB takedowns in India. We've also continuously detected and taken action against spam and fake engagement in the region, in line with our policies.

We apply our policies uniformly without regard to anyone's political positions or party affiliations. The decisions around integrity work or content escalations cannot and are not made unilaterally by just one person; rather, they are inclusive of different views from around the company, a process that is critical to making sure we consider, understand and account for both local and global contexts." - **Meta Spokesperson**

On background

- It's inaccurate that we didn't announce a pro-BJP CIB takedown when we did announce a pro-INC takedown. In April 2019, we investigated and [announced](#) two takedowns for CIB. Based on our investigation, we attributed them to
 - individuals associated with an IT Cell of the Indian National Congress (INC) and;
 - individuals associated with an Indian IT firm, Silver Touch. While our evidence led us to attribute to Silver Touch, we noted in our post that the focus was on posting about local news and political events, including topics like the Indian government, the upcoming elections, the BJP and alleged misconduct of political opponents including the INC.
- Our enforcement against Coordinated Inauthentic Behaviour was never stopped and continues even after the April 2019 elections.

Thanks,