

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1514
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/03/2021)**

REGULATION OF CONTENT BY OTT

1514. SHRI ARUN SINGH

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

(a) whether in the absence of any regulation, the content being broadcast by Over The Top (OTT) Platforms hurts our rich cultural traditions and beliefs, and many of the contents available on such platforms is capable of communicating negativity in adolescent attitudes; and

(b) whether by the virtue of the notification issued by Government in the past, now OTT Platforms come under the purview of the Ministry, and whether the Ministry has any specific set of rules/law for proper regulation of OTT Platforms to ensure a respect for public sentiment?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
{SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR}**

(a)&(b) The Government had received several complaints/representations regarding content of programmes on Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms. After consultation, the Government has

notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Codes) Rules, 2021 on 25th February, 2021, a copy of which is available on the website of the Ministry i.e. www.mib.gov.in.

The Rules inter- alia provide for the following:-

- i. Code of Ethics to be followed by digital news publishers and publishers of OTT content, which includes five age based classification (“U”, “U/A 7+”, “U/A 13+”, “U/A 16+” & “A”) in respect of OTT platforms.**
- ii. A three-level Grievance Redressal Mechanism consisting of the publisher (Level-I), self-regulating body constituted by the publishers (Level-II) and an Oversight Mechanism of the Government (Level-III), with time bound grievance disposal mechanism.**
- iii. Furnishing of information by the publishers to the Government and periodical disclosure of information regarding grievance redressal in public domain.**
