GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *144
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd AUGUST, 2021

OBJECTIONABLE CONTENT ON OTT PLATFORMS

***144: SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is lack of rule/law to stop the broadcast of objectionable content aired by the Over The Top (OTT) platforms and whether country's rich cultural traditions and beliefs are being harmed through these contents;

(b) whether contents on such platforms are capable of communicating negativity into the psyche of the adolescents; and

(c) whether OTT platforms now fall under the purview of the Ministry as per notification issued by Government previously and whether Ministry has any special law to regulate OTT platforms to ensure that honour and sentiments of the people are taken care of ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *144 FOR ANSWER ON 2.8.2021

(a) to (c) Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000. A copy of the Rules is available on the website of the Ministry i.e. www.mib.gov.in.

Part-III of the Rules, inter- alia, provide for Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms). The Code of Ethics for OTT platforms specifies general principles to be followed by the platforms for carriage of content, classification of content into five age based categories, display of such classification, and restricting access to children of higher rated content. Schedule to the Rules lays down guiding principles for content classification.

The Rules also provide for a three-level Grievance Redressal Mechanism relating to the violation of Code of Ethics by the publishers.

As per the Allocation of Business Rules (as amended on 9.11.2020)the subject relating to content of news and current affairs and audio-visual content on online platforms is under the mandate of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

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