

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1833
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17/03/2022**

PROCEDURE FOR BANNING BROADCAST OF ADVERTISEMENTS ETC.

1833. SMT. AMBIKA SONI:

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

- (a) the number of films/digital online media/advertisements that have been banned by Government from public viewing along with reasons during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the details of transparent procedure followed in banning such broadcasts; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to ensure that the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression is not violated due to excess censorship?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Central Board of Film Certification is a statutory body and performs the function of certifying films for public exhibition in accordance with the provisions of The Cinematograph Act, 1952 and Rules made thereunder. Exhibition of films is state subject. State Governments have separate laws for licensing and exhibition of films in theatres in the State.

As regards digital media, the publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms) are required to adhere to a Code of Ethics prescribed under Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The content like films, web series etc. hosted on the OTT platforms are required to be self classified by such platforms into five age based categories keeping in view the guidelines provided for this purpose in Schedule to the Rules.

(c): The Government is committed to ensure the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression. Press Council of India (PCI) has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

Similarly, appropriate provisions exist in Cinematograph Act, 1952, Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules made thereunder and Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rule, 2021 to ensure freedom of speech and artistic expression in respect of content on these media.
