

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1679**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023**

**UNCENSORED ADULT CONTENT ON OTT PLATFORMS**

**1679. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:**

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

**(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the uncensored adult content being spread through OTT platforms in the country;**

**(b) whether Government plans to form a regulatory body like Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for certifying and regulating the content before its release on OTT platforms; and**

**(c) whether any study has been done about impact of such unfiltered content on society in general and youth?**

## **ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c): The Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000, which inter alia provides for publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) to adhere to a Code of Ethics laid down in the Rules. The Code requires such publishers not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law and to undertake age based classification of content into 5 categories viz. “Universal”, “U/A 7+” (suitable for viewing by persons above 7 years of age and children under age of 7 years with parental guidance), “U/A13+” (suitable for viewing by persons above 13 years of age and children under age of 13 years with parental guidance), “U/A16+” (suitable for viewing by persons above 16 years of age and children under age of 16 years with parental guidance), and “A” (restricted to adults), based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules. The Code inter – alia also require the OTT Platform to put in place adequate safeguard for restricting age inappropriate content for children and with adequate access control measures such as parental locks etc.**

**The Rules also provide for a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into grievances/ complaints relating to violation of the Code of Ethics. The Government undertakes dialogue and consultation with the OTT platforms on a regular basis for ensuring adherence to the Code of Ethics. Whenever any violation is found, appropriate action under the rules is taken.**

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