

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2480**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

REGULATION OF OTT PLATFORMS

2480. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of increasing complaints against obscene and abusive language content on OTT platforms;

(b) if so, the steps taken to address the same;

(c) whether all OTT platforms have followed the code of conduct for these platforms issued by Government; and

(d) if not, the steps taken against the defaulters?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d):- 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 requires the OTT Platform to put in place adequate safeguard for restricting age inappropriate content for children and adequate access control measures such as parental locks etc.

The Rules also provide for a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to address grievances/ complaints relating to violation of the Code of Ethics. Whenever any violation is found, appropriate action under the rules is taken.
