

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2156**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

CONTROL OVER CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

2156 SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

(a) the action taken by Government, in view of the exhibition of nudity on various social media platform like OTT, YouTube, Facebook, movies and WhatsApp;

(b) whether a sound mechanism is available with Government for logical control over the contents available on these platforms, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any failure has been observed on the part of Members and Chairman of the bodies like Censor Board, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): 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. Part-III of these rules, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 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, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules. The Code also requires the OTT Platform to put in place adequate safeguard (such as parental locks etc.) for restricting age inappropriate content for children. The Rules also provide for a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to address grievances/ complaints relating to violation of the Code of Ethics.

Part-II of the Rules, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), inter alia casts obligation on intermediaries like YouTube, Facebook, etc. to make reasonable efforts by itself and to cause the user of its computer resource to not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, etc. knowingly and intentionally any information which is obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, invasive of another's privacy, including bodily privacy, insulting or harassing on the basis of gender.

(c) Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films for public exhibition in accordance with the provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952 and Rules made thereunder.
