

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 711**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

CODE OF ETHICS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

711 SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

(a) whether Government has placed a code of ethics for social media platforms like OTT/Movies, etc;

(b) whether Government has noted public anger against some films and tv serials as it was considered by public as unethical and having obscenity content;

(c) the details of public reaction and whether Government or Censor body identified such objectionable contents; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against Censor Board Members for negligence on their part, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25.02.2021 under IT Act, 2000. Content on social media platforms, being intermediaries, is governed under part-II of the Rules which requires them to undertake due diligence to inform the users of its computer resource not to host or publish certain content including obscene, pornographic content, etc.

Part-III of the rules provides for a Code of Ethics to be followed by digital news publishers and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms). This part also provides for a three tier grievance redressal mechanism for redressal of grievance relating to violation of the Code.

(b) to (d): Different codes are prescribed for content on different media. Content on TV channels is required to adhere to Programme and Advertising Code under Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules made thereunder. CTN (Amendment) Rules, 2021 provide for 3 tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into complaints relating to violation of the Codes.

Similarly, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), a statutory authority constituted under Cinematograph Act, 1952, autonomously certifies films meant for public exhibition in India in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and rules made thereunder.
