

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1378**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2024**

**CONTENT ON OTT AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

**1378. SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:**

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

- (a) whether Government is observing/has done any study on the psychological impact of the content being shown on OTT and social media on teenagers and youth which are not suitable for Indian culture and the future of India;**
- (b) whether Government intends to provide any guidelines for such content which is not suitable for national culture, at large; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**(DR. L. MURUGAN)**

**(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. These Rules provide for a Code of Ethics for publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) which, inter alia, requires the publishers not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law for the time being in force and to undertake age based self-classification of content into 5 categories, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules. The guidelines provide that while undertaking such self classification the context of the period depicted in such content and the contemporary standards of the country and people to which such content relate, are to be kept in mind.**

**The Code also provides that the OTT Platform will put in place adequate safeguard for restricting age inappropriate content for children.**

**So far as the content on intermediary platforms like YouTube, Facebook, etc. is concerned, IT Rules, 2021 cast obligation on such platforms to make reasonable efforts by itself and to cause the user of their 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, racially or ethnically objectionable, or that is harmful to child.**

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