GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2174 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

REGULATION OF OTT PLATFORMS

2174. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

(a) details of the specific measures implemented by Government to regulate OTT platforms while ensuring a balance between creative freedom and content responsibility;

(b) in what manner Government is addressing concerns about ageinappropriate content on OTT platforms, alongwith technological solutions being explored to enhance parental control features; and

(c) whether IT Rules, 2021 and other guidelines for digital news platforms are applicable to OTT platforms, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN):

(a) to (c): The Government has notified the 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 the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting provides for a Code of Ethics for publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) and a Grievance Redressal Mechanism to look into complaints relating to violation of the Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics for OTT platforms provides that they will not transmit any content which is prohibited by law for the time being in force and will undertake age-based self classification of content, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules. The OTT platforms are also required to put in place adequate safeguards for restricting age-inappropriate content for children with adequate access control measures.

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