

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 557**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

MONITORING OF DIGITAL NEWS PUBLISHERS AND OTT PLATFORMS

557 DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to curb child nudity and obscene content on Digital News Publishers and OTT platforms and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government feels that the content shown on OTT platforms should be monitored to prevent obscenity and vulgarity in the name of entertainment and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any action and blocked OTT platforms for publishing obscene and vulgar content under the provisions of Section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000 and if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c):- The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25.02.2021 under IT Act, 2000. Part-III of the rules provides for a Code of Ethics for digital news publishers and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms). 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 which contain the provisions related to depiction relating to nudity and sex. The OTT platforms will also put in place adequate safeguards for restricting age-inappropriate content for children with adequate access control measures.

In March 2024, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken action and blocked 18 OTT platforms for publishing obscene and vulgar content under the provisions of section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000.
