

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2270#
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

PREVENTING OBSCENITY IN ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES

2270# DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the complaints of increasing obscenity in entertainment programmes across the country particularly in States like Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the policy or guidelines issued to investigate and prevent these complaints;
- (c) whether Government has constituted any expert committee in this regard;
- (d) whether State Governments have been given guidance or assistance to prevent obscenity; and
- (e) whether any concrete steps have been taken to regulate digital platforms and OTT content?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a to d) No Sir.

- (e) 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, provides for a Code of Ethics for publishers of online curated content (Dn' 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.

Besides, Section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000 provides for notification by appropriate Governments of unlawful act or content to the intermediaries for removing/ disabling access to such content. In this regard, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the appropriate Government for content on OTT platforms.

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