

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025**

**DISCLOSURE OF CONTENT MODERATION AND AGE-CLASSIFICATION
PROCESSES BY OTT PLATFORMS**

**2480. SMT. REKHA SHARMA:
SHRI MADAN RATHORE:
SHRI NARHARI AMIN:
SHRI BRIJ LAL:
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SHRI MAYANKBHAI JAYDEVBHAI NAYAK:
DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:**

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

- (a) whether OTT platforms are being mandated to disclose their internal content moderation and age-classification processes;**
- (b) whether Government is considering amending the IT Rules, 2021, to introduce stricter penalties for violations by OTT platforms; and**
- (c) if so, the details of the proposed amendments and penalties in this regard?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING;
AND 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.

Part-III of these Rules, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, provides 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, as under:

Nature of Content (suitable for)	Classification
Unrestricted access, regardless of age, and is family friendly	U
For persons aged 7 years and above, and can be viewed by a person under the age of 7 years with parental guidance	U/A 7+
For persons aged 13 years and above, and can be viewed by a person under the age of 13 years with parental guidance	U/A 13+
For persons aged 16 years and above, and can be viewed by a person under the age of 16 years with parental guidance	U/A 16+
Restricted to adults	A

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.

Regarding obscene content on OTT platforms, the Government takes action against such content under the existing statutory framework.
