

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3270
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2025**

OBSCENITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS AND YOUTUBE

3270. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether the incident of obscenity is increasing rapidly on social media platforms and YouTube channels as they are out of reach of censorship and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to formulate regulatory measures to check obscenity on social media and YouTube channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the other measures taken/being taken by Government to check obscenity on social media and YouTube channels?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) on 25.02.2021 under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

For the user generated content on intermediary platforms, including social media intermediaries like YouTube, Part-II of IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) casts specific due diligence obligations on these intermediaries to make reasonable efforts by themselves and to cause the users of their computer resource to not host, store, transmit, display or publish, etc. any such information that is obscene, pornographic, invasive of another’s privacy, insulting or harassing on the basis of gender, racially or ethnically objectionable, or promoting enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion or caste with the intent to incite violence, or harmful to child or that is relating or encouraging money laundering or gambling, or that is misinformation, patently false information, untrue or misleading in nature, or that threatens the unity, integrity, defence, security or sovereignty of India, public order, or that violates any law for the time being in force.

Similarly for the publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms), Part-III of the IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, provides for a Code of Ethics for such publishers 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.

The Government takes action against obscene/vulgar content on social media intermediaries and OTT platforms under the existing statutory framework.