GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3274 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2025

BLOCKING OF YOUTUBE CHANNELS

3274. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether Government has blocked many YouTube channels in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether YouTube channels have been blocked on grounds other than spreading false and unverified information also; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the incidents which prompted Government to block these 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) Rule, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) under Information Technology Act which, inter-alia, provides for a Code of Ethics for publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms) and a three tier grievance redressal mechanism for addressing grievances relating to violation of the Code.

Section 69 A of Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for blocking of content "in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above". Ministry of Information & Broadcasting issues directions for blocking from public access of such content under the provisions of Part-III of IT Rules, 2021.