GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3932 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

CURBING PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT ON OTT

3932. SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:

DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

(a) the number of complaints received regarding the dissemination of obscene, pornographic and vulgar content on OTT platforms during the financial year 2024-25 up to February 2025, and the number of cases that have been resolved;

(b) whether any advisory has been issued to OTT platforms in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(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) a three tier grievance redressal mechanism for addressing grievances relating to violation of the Code. 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.

Complaints relating to violation of the Code of Ethics are addressed under the provisions of the three tier grievance redressal mechanism initially at Level-I i.e. by the publisher.

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. Under these provisions the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in March 2024, has taken action and blocked 18 OTT platforms for publishing obscene and vulgar content.

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