

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1536

TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2025

ACCESSIBILITY OF CONTENT BY VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED ON OTT PLATFORM

1536 SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

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

- (a) the penalties prescribed for failure to provide mandatory features such as same-language captions or audio descriptions for the hearing and visually impaired on OTT platforms;
- (b) the implementation schedule for mandatory closed captions and audio descriptions on OTT platforms;
- (c) in what manner the Ministry will monitor and enforce the progressive accessibility targets for content libraries on these platforms;
- (d) whether the Ministry plans to extend mandatory accessibility standards to all content broadcast by Prasar Bharati; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued draft Guidelines for Accessibility of Content on Platforms of Publishers of Online Curated Content (OTT Platforms) for Persons with Hearing and Visual Impairment for public consultation on 07.10.2025.

The draft guidelines have been published keeping in view the Constitutional guarantees enshrined under Article 14, India's obligation under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016 and Code of Ethics under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25.02.2021 under IT Act, 2000 (IT Rules, 2021).

The draft guidelines aim to ensure that audio-visual content on OTT platforms is accessible to persons with hearing and visual impairment. It also provides for a two-phase implementation schedule.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has already issued Accessibility Standards for Persons with Disabilities in Television Programmes for the Hearing Impaired dated 11.09.2019.

Part 12 of the said Accessibility Standards prescribes that the implementation of access service should be in a phased manner, first implemented by the public broadcaster (i.e. Prasar Bharati), and followed by private broadcasters and private news broadcasters.
