

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2301
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH MARCH, 2023**

OTT COMMUNICATION SERVICES

**2301. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI
KARUNANIDHI:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to make a distinction between an Over The Top (OTT) communication service provider and any other OTT platform or service that includes communication services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has studied the impact of inclusion of OTT communication services within the ambit of Telecom law which regulates terrestrial carriage and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government intends to minimize the effect of the Telecom Bill, that would impact only India-based OTT players and not those operating from overseas resulting in a serious handicap to Indian service providers *vis a vis* their foreign competitors and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Communications had released the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022 for public consultation in September 2022. The Bill refers to the 'OTT communication services' as a type of telecommunication service. The policy objective is that all forms of telecommunication, which include OTT communication services, need to be covered under the ambit of law.

The draft Telecommunication Bill, will undergo further revision based on comments/suggestions received during the public consultation.
