

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3238

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2023

POLICY FOR REGULATION OF OTT PLATFORM.

3238. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:

PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:

SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:

DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Government has established any policy to regulate the Over-The-Top (OTT) platform;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government regarding the information which hurts the religious sentiments of the citizens; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government for the promotion of regional cinema in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (b): The Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000, which inter alia requires OTT platforms to adhere to a Code of Ethics laid down in the Rules. The Code provides for general principles to be followed by OTT platforms, including that a publisher shall take into consideration India's multi-religious context and exercise due caution and discretion when featuring the activities, beliefs, practices or view of any religious group. The Code also requires OTT players not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law and to undertake age based self-classification of content, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules.

The Rules also provide for a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into grievances/ complaints relating to violation of the Code of Ethics by the OTT platforms.

(c): National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) organizes Film Bazaar every year on the sidelines of International Film Festival of India which has participation of major states showcasing their locations along with incentives being offered, to various filmmakers from India and abroad.

Film Facilitation Office (FFO) set up by Central Government provides for a single window facilitation and clearance mechanism that eases the process of filming/shooting in States and Union Territories throughout India. Besides, a 'Most Friendly State Award' has been initiated as a category under the National Film Awards to encourage the State Governments to be more proactive towards creating a film friendly environment.
