

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 898
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2023

IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON FAKE NEWS.

898. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

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

(a) whether web series do not come under any regulation and while taking its advantage many producers/directors are promoting drugs, objectionable web shows, movies etc. on all the Over The Top (OTT) platforms;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has made amendments in rules to impose restrictions on the objectionable contents, propaganda, fake news and various illegal activities of digital platforms and OTT platforms and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government contemplates on making of strict laws separately along with developing a monitoring system in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

a) to (e): The Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000, on 25th February, 2021. Part-III of these Rules inter- alia provide for the following:-

- i. Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (commonly known as OTT Platforms).**
- ii. A three-level Grievance Redressal Mechanism consisting of the publisher (Level-I), self-regulating body constituted by the publishers (Level-II) and an Oversight Mechanism of the Government (Level-III), with time bound grievance disposal mechanism.**
- iii. Furnishing of information by the publishers to the Government and periodic disclosure of information regarding grievance redressal in public domain.**

The Codes require 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, alongwith adequate safeguards for restricting age-inappropriate content for children with adequate access control measures.

Grievances relating to the Code of Ethics are addressed in accordance with the three-tier Grievance redressal mechanism provided in the Rules.
