

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2559

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 19-12-2023)

BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL, 2023

2559. SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:

SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to bring Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, with a consolidated regulatory framework for the broadcasting sector, extending to (Over-the-Top) OTT content and digital media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed bill has arrangement of the establishment of a Broadcast Advisory Council and the apex decision-making body;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government for effective regulatory framework in keeping with the technological advancements in the sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): With the advent of new technologies and platforms, various categories of broadcasting services have emerged such as internet based services like IPTV, OTT platforms etc. and also existing technologies like DTH and cable television have gone through substantial change. Central Government has amended the relevant existing laws and Rules made thereunder and issued/modified policy guidelines governing broadcasting services to keep pace with technological changes. The Ministry has prepared the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, which seeks to replace the existing Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Bill streamlines regulatory processes, extends its purview to cover the Over-the-Top (OTT) content and digital news, introduces contemporary definitions and provisions for emerging technologies and seeks to strengthen the self-regulatory regime through Broadcast Advisory Council for content regulation, etc. The draft Bill is available on the Ministry's Website along with the explanatory notes for comments till 15.01.2024.
