

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 734**  
**(TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/02/2021)**

**REGULATION OF OTT PLATFORM**

**734. SHRI: PINAKI MISRA**  
**SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE**  
**SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA**  
**SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU**  
**SHRI RAVI KISHAN**  
**DR. MANOJ RAJORIA**  
**DR. RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA**  
**SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL**  
**SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA**  
**SHRI MANOJ KOTAK**  
**SHRI G.S. BASAVRAJ**  
**SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU**  
**SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK**  
**SHRI NAYAB SINGH**  
**ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE**  
**SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA**  
**KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE**  
**SHRI B.B. PATIL**  
**SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL**  
**SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE**  
**SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA**

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

**(a) the estimated number of users and market size of Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms in the country;**

**(b) Whether the Government is aware of the facts that content/web series aired on OTT platforms is full of sex, violence, abuse, vulgarity and disrespect to religious sentiments and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with complaints received in this regard so far state/UT-wise;**

**(c) the current procedure and penalty under law for violation of religious sentiments by OTT platforms;**

**(d) whether the Government rejected the self regulation guidelines developed by OTT platform and streaming services and if so, the reasons therefore;**

**(e) whether the Government has any proposal to bring in new regulation laws or constitute a regulatory authority for censoring OTT platforms in order to address the issue of sensitive, objectionable, vulgarity, obscene, fake video contents, if so; the details thereof and the time line fixed for the purpose; and**

**(f) whether the Government has initiated any consultation process with the concerned stakeholders in this regard and if so, the details thereof?**

### **ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF  
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES {SHRI PRAKASH  
JAVADEKAR}**

**(a): It has been reported that there are about 40 Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms presently operating in the country.**

**(b) to (f): The Government has received several grievances/complaints regarding content of programmes on OTT platforms. The Government also has held several consultations with the OTT players, including**

**with the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) impressing upon them the need for having an appropriate self-regulatory mechanism for content over OTT platforms. In August, 2020, the IAMAI had informed the Ministry that a self-regulatory mechanism had been developed for the OTT platforms. On examination it was felt that the mechanism proposed by IAMAI did not give adequate cognizance to content prohibited under law and there were issues of conflict of interest, which were communicated to IAMAI in September, 2020.**

**The Central Government has vide notification dated 9.11.2020 amended the Allocation of Business Rules and the subject relating to content of news and current affairs and audio-visual content on online platforms has been brought in the mandate of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**

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