

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1599

TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021

POLICIES ON OTT PLATFORM

1599. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE

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

- (a) Whether the Government has rolled out any policy regulating web portals and Over The Top (OTT) platform and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the circumstance under which contents are blocked on the web along with the nodal authority set up to govern such issues; and**
- (c) the number of persons booked so far for spreading fake news State/UT-wise?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000. Part-III of the Rules relating to content of digital news and content on OTT platforms is administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and inter-alia provides for a Digital Media Ethics Code to be followed by the publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms). The Rules have three broad features:

- i. Code of Ethics for digital news publishers and OTT Platforms**
- ii. Three Tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism as under:**
 - a) Level-I- Publisher**
 - b) Level-II- Self-Regulating Body of publishers, and**
 - c) Level-III- Over Sight Mechanism of Central Government consisting of Inter Departmental Committee**
- iii. Furnishing of information by publishers to the Government.**

(b) Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers the Central Government or any authorized officer to block for access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource under the circumstances and conditions laid down in that Section.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects under the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India and the responsibility to maintain law and order, including safety and security of citizens, including journalists, rests primarily with State Governments.

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