

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4203
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2022**

NEW GUIDELINES TO SOCIAL MEDIA

4203. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R. :

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

(a) whether any new guidelines have been introduced by the Government in the social media platforms and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any prior consultations with it's stake holders have been made by the Government for introducing new guidelines, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether any representations have been received from the stake holders including the Journalist community for withdrawal of new dangerous clauses; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (b): Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25th February 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000.

Part-II of these Rules, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY), relate to intermediaries, including social media intermediaries.

Part-III of these Rules, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting provides for an institutional mechanism for publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms), which inter-alia provide for the following:-

- I. Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers.**
- 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) to look into complaints/grievance relating to violation of the Code of Ethics.**

Meity has undertaken public consultation with stakeholders with regard to amendments in the Intermediary Guidelines, 2011 before notification of the IT Rules, 2021. Similarly, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has held consultations with stakeholders, including OTT players and their associations before notification of the Rules.

(c) & (d) The Government has received representations from various stakeholders regarding applicability and implementation of the IT Rules, which were addressed through various communications and in the several webinars conducted on the Rules by the Ministry.
