

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 324

TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2022

ILLEGAL IMPORT AND EXPORT OF FILMS

324. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR

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

- a) whether the Government has made any strict law to regulate and control Over the Top (OTT) media, web series and vulgar shows that insult religious and national sentiments and promote obscenity;**
- b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard;**
- c) whether the Government is contemplating about it and if so, the details thereof;**
- d) the policies adopted by the Government to check the illegal import and export of films; and**
- e) whether the Government has any plan to strengthen publicity campaigns on issues of public interest and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (c): 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 (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.**

The Code requires OTT players not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law and undertake age based self-classification of content, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule.

(d): As per the ITC(HS), 2022 under Schedule 1 of Import Policy pertaining to 'Photographic or Cinematographic Goods', the import of any unauthorized/pirated films is prohibited.

The importer of a film is required to comply with the provisions of all applicable Indian laws governing the distribution and exhibition of films, including the requirement of obtaining a certificate of public exhibition prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

(e): The publicity of campaigns on issues of public interest are taken up by the Government on need basis through the appropriate media.

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