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.