

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1455

TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

REGULATION OF CONTENT ON DIGITAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

1455. SHRI CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA:

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

- (a) the steps being taken to regulate content on digital media platforms while ensuring freedom of expression;**
- (b) the measures implemented to curb fake news, misinformation and hate speech on these platforms;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the accessibility of inappropriate or underage content on digital platforms and its impact on the mental health and behavior of youth;**
- (d) if so, the details of any guidelines, safeguards or penalties being planned to address such content effectively; and**
- (e) the initiatives being undertaken to promote and support indigenous content creators and platforms to enhance local cultural representation in the digital space?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW):

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

Part-III of these Rules provide for Code of Ethics for publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms). The Code of Ethics for digital news publishers requires such publishers to adhere to the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' of the Press Council of India, The Programme Code under the Cable Television (Network Regulation Act, 1995). Similarly, Code of Ethics for OTT platforms requires them not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law for the time being in force and to undertake age based classification of content into 5 categories, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules. The Code also provides that the OTT Platform will put in place adequate safeguard for restricting age inappropriate content for children.

So far as the content on intermediary platforms like YouTube, Facebook, etc. is concerned, Part-II of IT Rules, 2021 cast obligation on such platforms to make reasonable efforts by itself and to cause the user of their computer resource to not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, etc. knowingly and intentionally any information which is obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, invasive of another's privacy, including bodily privacy, insulting or harassing on the basis of gender, racially or ethnically objectionable, or that is harmful to child and any information which is patently false and untrue, and is written and published in any form with the intent to mislead or harass a person, entity or agency for financial gain or to cause any injury to any person.
