

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3868
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

VULGARITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

3868. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware about the increasing number of highly vulgar, anti indian and anti-indian family values on social media platforms;

(b) if so, whether there is any system to watch and prevent such contents from broadcasting on any platform like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc.; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard during the last five years?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN):**

(a) to (c): The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) on 25.02.2021 under the Information Technology Act,2000.

For the user generated content on intermediary platforms, Part-II of IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) casts specific due diligence obligations on intermediaries, including social media intermediaries to make reasonable efforts by themselves and to cause the users of their computer resource to not host, store, transmit, display or publish, etc. any such information that, among other things, is obscene, pornographic, invasive of another’s privacy, insulting or harassing on the basis of gender, racially or ethnically objectionable, or promoting enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion or caste with the intent to incite violence, or harmful to child or that is relating or encouraging money laundering or gambling, or that is misinformation, patently false information, untrue or misleading in nature, or that threatens the unity, integrity, defence, security or sovereignty of India, public order, or that violates any law for the time being in force.

Similarly for the publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms), Part-III of the IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, inter-alia, provide for a Code of Ethics for such publishers. Further, under Section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000 the intermediary platforms may be notified about unlawful content on their platforms by the appropriate Governments for its expeditious removal. Being appropriate Government for content on OTT platforms, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has taken action in coordination with various intermediaries, and blocked 18 OTT platforms on 14th March, 2024 for publishing obscene, vulgar, and, in some instances, pornographic content under these provisions.
