

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2122

TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

CONTENT SHOWN ON OTT PLATFORMS

2122. DR. ANAND KUMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the screening of obscene and vulgar content in the name of entertainment has increased during the last few years and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to curb child nudity and obscene content on OTT platforms including YouTube and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government is of the view that the content shown on OTT platforms should be monitored to prevent obscenity and vulgarity in the name of entertainment and if so, the details thereof?

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 on 25.02.2021 under IT Act, 2000. Part-III of the rules provides for a Code of Ethics for digital news publishers and publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms). The Code of Ethics for OTT platforms provides that they will not transmit any content which is prohibited by law for the time being in force and will undertake age-based self classification of content, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules which contain the provisions related to depiction relating to nudity and sex. The OTT platforms will also put in place adequate safeguards for restricting age-inappropriate content for children with adequate access control measures.

Besides, Section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000 provides for notification by appropriate Governments of unlawful act or content to the intermediaries for removing/disabling access to such content. Under these provisions the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in March 2024, has taken action and blocked 18 OTT platforms for publishing obscene and vulgar content.

This Ministry has also issued advisory dated 19.02.2025 to OTT platforms and Self-regulatory Bodies of OTT platforms for ensuring adherence to Indian Laws and the Code of Ethics laid down under the IT Rules, 2021 while hosting of content on their platforms.
