

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2224

TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

REGULATIONS ON OTT PLATFORMS

2224. MS. S JOTHIMANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering stricter regulations on digital content, particularly regarding obscene material on OTT platforms, in response to recent public concerns;**
- (b) the specific measures being proposed to regulate digital content while ensuring a balance between content moderation and creative freedom; and**
- (c) whether consultations have been held with stakeholders including OTT platforms and content creators regarding the proposed regulatory changes and if so, the details of the key outcomes?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(DR. L MURUGAN):

(a) to (c): 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, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, provides for a Code of Ethics for publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) which, inter alia, requires the publishers not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law for the time being in force and to undertake age based self-classification of content into 5 categories, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules.

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.

Regarding obscene content on OTT platforms, the Government takes action against such content under the existing statutory framework.
