

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5274
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025**

COMPLAINTS REGARDING PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT ON OTT PLATFORMS

5274. DR. K SUDHAKAR:

SHRI JASWANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR:

SMT. HIMADRI SINGH:

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL:

SHRI CHAVDA VINOD LAKHAMSHI:

SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

SHRI LUMBA RAM CHAUDHARY:

SMT. MAHIMA KUMARI MEWAR:

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

SHRI ALOK SHARMA:

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:

SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:

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

(a) the number of complaints related to broadcast of obscene, pornographic and vulgar content on Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms received during the financial year 2024-25 till February 2025 and the number of cases resolved out of the said complaints;

(b) whether any advisory been issued to OTT platforms in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any punitive action against those found guilty of spreading obscene, pornographic and vulgar content on OTT platforms and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to launch Prasar Bharati on OTT platforms and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the telecast of private channels is likely to be restricted on Prasar Bharati OTT 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 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) and a three tier grievance redressal mechanism for addressing grievances relating to violation of the Code. The Code, inter alia, requires the OTT platforms 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.

Complaints relating to content on OTT platforms are dealt under IT Rules, 2021 through a 3-tier grievance redressal mechanism with Level-I of the grievance redressal through the publisher itself, for taking appropriate action.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued an 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.

(d) and (e): Prasar Bharati has launched its streaming platform 'WAVES' in November, 2024 to complement its traditional broadcasting to showcase a wider range of content beyond what is feasible on linear broadcast channels. Permitted private satellite TV channels are allowed on the WAVES platform.
