

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2781
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025

PENALTIES ON OTT PLATFORMS

2781. SMT. D K ARUNA:

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

- (a) the penalties prescribed for failure to provide mandatory features such as same-language captions or audio descriptions for the hearing and visually-impaired on Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms;
- (b) the implementation schedule for mandatory closed captions and audio descriptions on OTT platforms;
- (c) the manner in which the Government is likely to monitor and enforce the progressive accessibility targets for content libraries on these platforms; and
- (d) whether the Government plans to extend mandatory accessibility standards to all content broadcast by Prasar Bharati and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (d): The Government of India issued the draft Guidelines for Accessibility of Content on Platforms of Publishers of Online Curated Content (OTT Platforms) for Persons with Hearing and Visual Impairment for public consultation on 7.10.2025.

The draft guidelines have been published keeping in view the Constitutional guarantees enshrined under Article 14, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD), 2016 and Code of Ethics under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 on 25.02.2021 under IT Act, 2000.

The draft guidelines aim to enable audio-visual content on OTT platforms more accessible to persons with hearing and visual impairment. It also provides for a two-phase implementation schedule.

Accessibility Standards for Persons with Disabilities in Television Programmes for the Hearing Impaired have already been issued on 11.09.2019.

Part 12 of the said Accessibility Standards prescribes that the implementation of access service should be in a phased manner, first implemented by the public broadcaster (i.e. Prasar Bharati), and followed by private broadcasters and private news broadcasters.
