

Act, on matters relating to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the above.

Further, online video streaming services providing curated content are expected to follow various content related domestic laws as applicable to them. In addition, web channels, which are intermediaries under that Act, are required to follow certain due diligence as prescribed in the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011.

Government called a meeting of OTT platforms and their association is in preparation of self-regulation.

Uncensored media content

2474. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the uncensored media content especially from Television and social media are polluting the minds of the viewers and spoiling the character of children;

(b) whether vengeful contents and obscene display of sex have been on the increase, in Over The Top Contents (OTT) media services, if so, steps Government proposes, to curb the menace; and

(c) whether the recent social media like Netflix, Prime Video, YouTube, etc. are earning considerable revenue by screening movies, serials, etc. thereby depriving the State of revenue through entertainment tax, if so, whether Government proposes to bring them under tax ambit?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) All programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. Action is taken against defaulting channels whenever any violation of the codes is established. The Information Technology Act, 2000, administered by

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has provisions relating to content on websites, etc. Information/websites/URLs can be blocked under Section 69A of that Act, on matters relating to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the above.

Web channels, which are intermediaries under that Act, are required to follow certain due diligence as prescribed in the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011.

(c) Entertainment Tax earlier levied by State Governments has been subsumed under GST w.e.f. 01.07.2017. Online information and database access or retrieval services (OIDAR services) supplied by entities such as Netflix, Prime Video, YouTube, etc. attract GST@18%. OIDAR services have been defined under Section 2(17) of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) Act, 2017.

Operational Akashvani centres

2475. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of Akashvani centres currently operational in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the details of number of channels, Akashvani is offering its services, at present?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) AIR has 482 Akashvani Radio, centres operating in the country. State/ UT-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) At present, AIR has 326 channels, including Vividh Bharati Service, FM Services, etc.