

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2313

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09th AUGUST, 2021

**NEW OTT REGULATIONS AND INTERMEDIATELY GUIDELINES FOR
STAKEHOLDERS**

2313 SHRI K. J. ALPHONS

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

(a) whether Government will clarify whether the public, as well as relevant stakeholders, were consulted before the new Over The Top (OTT) regulations and intermediary guidelines, were brought into existence;

(b) the manner in which Government proposes to strike a balance between the new restrictions and censorship which is brought in by the IT rules within the ambit of freedom of speech and creative artistic freedom; and

(c) whether the new three-tier grievance redressal mechanism will ensure that the complaints are received and taken into consideration in a timely manner?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) Ministry of Electronics and information Technology (MeITY) had invited public comments for amendments to the Intermediary Guidelines Rules, 2011 on 24.12.2018 and comments had been received from individual, civil society, industry associations and organisations. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had also held consultations with various stakeholders, including OTT players and their associations. These have been considered while preparing the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

(b): Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 provides for self-classification of online curated content (OTT Platforms) based on guidelines specified in the Schedule of the Rules. The rules inter – alia provide for Code of Ethics to be followed by digital news publisher, which is at par with content codes for traditional media platforms. Further, for OTT platforms, the rules provide for self- classification, thus ensuring creative freedom.

(c): The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 provide for a Code of Ethics to be followed by publishers of news & current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (commonly known as OTT Platforms) and a three-level Grievance Redressal Mechanism consisting of the publisher (Level-I), self-regulating body constituted by the publishers (Level-II) and an Oversight Mechanism of the Government (Level-III), with time bound grievance disposal mechanism.
