

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 554
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021)**

GUIDELINES FOR TV RATING AGENCIES AND OTT PLATFORMS

554. SHRI M.V. SHREYAMS KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to review the guidelines for television rating agencies, if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to further strengthen the rating system;
- (b) whether Government has received complaints against over-the-top (OTT) platforms regarding their programmes during the last two years;
- (c) If so, the details thereof including the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether Government proposes to review the guidelines for OTT platforms; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a): A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati with members from IIT, C-DOT and IIM. The Committee was tasked, inter alia, to study any issues related or incidental to the subject and make recommendations on way forward for a robust, transparent and accountable rating system in India. The Committee has made recommendations on measurement methodology, the structural changes in the composition of the rating agencies, audits and other issues referred to them including TRAI recommendations. The report of the Committee has also been shared with the stakeholders.

(b) to (c): The content on OTT platforms is governed under the provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 which inter-alia provides for a Code of Ethics to be followed by the OTT

platforms and a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism to look into complaints / grievances of violation of the code of ethics by such platforms. After notification of the Rules on 25.2.2021 the complaints received in the Ministry against content on OTT platforms are forwarded to the respective publishers, who are level- 1 of the grievance redressal mechanism, for redressal under the Rules.

(d) to (e): There is no such proposal to review the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
