

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2155**

TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

**SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN RELATED TO SOCIAL AND DIGITAL
MEDIA**

2155 SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

(a) the specific areas of concern related to social and digital media and the manner in which Government is tackling them;

(b) the specific legal provisions under which Government takes such actions;

(c) the number of such provisions which are facing legal challenges; and

(d) in what manner Government hopes to challenge or purge the numerous inflammatory messages and items in both media that openly seek to incite hatred or violence against communities or religious groups?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (“IT Rules, 2021”) on 25.02.2021 under Information Technology Act,2000. Part-II of IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), provides for due diligence by intermediaries and casts specific obligations and places accountability on intermediaries, including social media intermediaries or platforms, to ensure that they are accountable for their platforms to be safe & trusted and do not carry any content that is violative of rule 3(1)(b) of IT Rules, 2021.

Part-III of these rules, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, inter-alia provides for adherence to a Code of Ethics by publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and publishers of online curated content (OTT Platforms). The Rules also provide for a three-tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism to address complaints/grievances relating to violation of the Code of Ethics by the publishers.

Writ Petitions were filed in Courts challenging certain provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The matter is before the Supreme Court.
