

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1359

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 02-08-2024)

ISSUES REGARDING BROADCASTING BILL

1359. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has revised the Broadcasting Bill;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Over-The-Top (OTT) and digital media have been brought under broadcast, despite differences between linear and on-demand services;
- (c) whether OTT and digital media are exempted from criminal penalties for failing to inform Government on reaching prescribed threshold;
- (d) other democratic countries that have Content Evaluation Committees to pre-certify content before broadcast;
- (e) whether it is a fact that distinctions between journalism and content creation has blurred and the term 'news and current affairs' is too broad; and
- (f) whether small budget independent journalists on social media have same obligations as corporates?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (f): The draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, seeking to replace the existing Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 was placed in public domain for comments of the stakeholders including domain experts and the general public on 10.11.2023.

The stakeholders' consultation is currently underway.

The Bill is still at the drafting stage.
