

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2965
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

REGULATION OF CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA/OTT

2965 SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the content shown on Social Media and OTT Apps are spoiling the youth of the country and is also against Indian culture;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereon;**
- (c) whether Government plans to bring in stricter regulations for showing such content;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) the steps taken by Government to stop them from showing such contents?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN)**

(a) to (e): The Government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) on 25th February, 2021 under Information Technology Act, 2000. Part-III of these Rules, administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, provides for a Code of Ethics for publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) which, inter alia, requires the publishers not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law for the time being in force and to undertake age based self-classification of content into 5 categories, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules. The Code also provides that the OTT Platform will put in place adequate safeguard for restricting age inappropriate content for children.

So far as the content on social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, etc. is concerned, Part-II of the IT Rules, 2021, administered by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, casts specific obligations on such platforms to make reasonable efforts by themselves and to cause the user of their computer resource to not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, etc. knowingly and intentionally any information which is obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, invasive of another's privacy, including bodily privacy, insulting or harassing on the basis of gender, racially or ethnically objectionable, or that is harmful to child.
