

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2481
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025**

**PROPOSAL TO BRING TV CHANNELS AND OTT PLATFORMS UNDER THE
CBFC**

**2481: DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:
SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:**

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

- a) whether Government has any proposal to bring webseries and serial programs telecast on various television channels, OTT platforms, under the control of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC);
- b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- c) whether Government has taken serious note on the flooding of webseries and web films with scenes depicting obscene and nudity as well as inappropriate depiction of women; and
- d) if so, the appropriate measures taken by Government to stop this menace?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) & (b): There are existing laws in India to regulate content on both television and OTT platforms. Content on television is required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The publishers of online curated content (commonly known as OTT platforms) are required to adhere to a Code of Ethics which has been laid down in the appendix to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the Information Technology Act, 2000 notified on 25.02.2021.

(c) & (d): Part-III of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, inter-alia provide for a Code of Ethics and three-level Grievance Redressal Mechanism to look into the complaints/grievances relating to violation of the Code of Ethics. This Code of Ethics requires OTT platforms not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law and undertake age-based self classification of content, based on general guidelines provided in the Schedule to the Rules, along with adequate safeguards for restricting age inappropriate content for children with adequate access control measures.

Besides, Section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000 provides for notification by appropriate Governments of unlawful act or content to the intermediaries for removing/disabling access to such content. Under these provisions the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in March 2024, has taken action and blocked 18 OTT platforms for publishing obscene and vulgar content.

This Ministry has also issued advisory dated 19.02.2025 to OTT platforms and Self-regulatory Bodies of OTT platforms for ensuring adherence to Indian Laws and the Code of Ethics laid down under the IT Rules, 2021 while hosting of content on their platforms.
