

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *136
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024**

IMPACT OF CONTENT SHOWN ON OTT AND YOUTUBE PLATFORMS

***136. MS KANGNA RANAUT:**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of contents being shown on OTT and YouTube platforms, which have influences on teenagers and youth, psychologically affecting the adolescents and are not appropriate for the Indian culture and future of India;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to make strict guidelines for the contents which are not appropriate for the Indian culture;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA
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(a) to (d):- 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. These Rules provide for a Code of Ethics for publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) which, inter alia, require the publishers not to transmit any content which is prohibited by law for the time being in force and to undertake age based 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.

In March 2024, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken action and blocked 18 OTT platforms for publishing obscene and vulgar content under the provisions of section 79(3)(b) of IT Act, 2000.

So far as the content on intermediary platforms like YouTube, Facebook, etc. is concerned, IT Rules, 2021 cast obligation on such platforms to make reasonable efforts by itself 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.
