

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4417
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/03/2020**

SELF-CENSORSHIP FOR OTT CHANNELS

4417. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any representations have been received from the stakeholders or OCCPs regarding self-censorship for Over the Top (OTT) channels and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) also act as the censor board for media streaming platforms on the internet;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the proposed reforms for improving the functioning of the CBFC; and
- (e) the details of objections received and action taken against content on television and in films, subject- wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) to (d): The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) created under Section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 performs the statutory function of certifying films for public exhibition in accordance with the Cinematograph Act, 1952, Cinematograph

(Certification) Rules, 1983 and guidelines issued thereunder. All films, promos, teasers, songs, trailers, etc. meant for public exhibition, irrespective of their length and media type (Celluloid, video, CD or DVD) are subjected to certification by the CBFC. The entire film certification process is being done online by CBFC since the launch of Online Certification System in March 2017. However, CBFC does not have mandate over internet platforms.

(e): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the CBFC receive complaints, etc. from different sections of society from time to time regarding content on TV and in films. The content telecast on private satellite TV channels is required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes as prescribed in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. Appropriate action is taken as per the rules whenever violation of the said Codes is established. For films, these are considered based on merits and disposed of, by taking suitable action under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act and Rules. Excisions and/or modifications are directed if any Guidelines under Section 5(2) of Cinematograph Act 1952 are violated.
