

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

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 21**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024**

**LAWS TO CHECK VULGAR CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**\*21 SHRI ARUN GOVIL:**

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

**(a) the existing mechanism to check telecast of vulgar and sex related content through social media platforms illegally; and**

**(b) whether the Government proposes to make the existing laws more stringent keeping in view the fact that the said laws are not much effective to stop misuse of these platforms?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (b):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO \*21 FOR ANSWER ON 27.11.2024**

**(a) to (b):- 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.**

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