

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 734

ANSWERED ON:05.02.2021

Regulation of OTT Platforms

Pinaki Misra

- (a) the estimated number of users and market size of Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms in the country;
- (b) Whether the Government is aware of the facts that content/web series aired on OTT platforms is full of sex, violence, abuse, vulgarity and disrespect to religious sentiments and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with complaints received in this regard so far state/UT-wise;
- (c) the current procedure and penalty under law for violation of religious sentiments by OTT platforms;
- (d) whether the Government rejected the self regulation guidelines developed by OTT platform and streaming services and if so, the reasons therefore;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to bring in new regulation laws or constitute a regulatory authority for censoring OTT platforms in order to address the issue of sensitive, objectionable, vulgarity, obscene, fake video contents, if so; the details thereof and the time line fixed for the purpose; and
- (f) whether the Government has initiated any consultation process with the concerned stakeholders in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

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

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES {SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR}

(a): It has been reported that there are about 40 Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms presently operating in the country.

(b) to (f): The Government has received several grievances/complaints regarding content of programmes on OTT platforms. The Government also has held several consultations with the OTT players, including with the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) impressing upon them the need for having an appropriate self-regulatory mechanism for content over OTT platforms. In August, 2020, the IMAI had informed the Ministry that a self-regulatory mechanism had been developed for the OTT platforms. On examination it was felt that the mechanism proposed by IMAI did not give adequate cognizance to content prohibited under law and there were issues of conflict of interest, which were communicated to IMAI in September, 2020.

The Central Government has vide notification dated 9.11.2020 amended the Allocation of Business Rules and the subject relating to content of news and current affairs and audio-visual content on online platforms has been brought in the mandate of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

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