

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2053
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2023

CIRCULATION OF OBJECTIONABLE LIVE STREAMING ADULT VIDEOS.

2053. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding ill-effects of objectionable photos, videos, reels, misleading news and advertisements being circulated continuously through social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube and internet and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to curb these crimes and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints from users regarding objectionable live streaming adult videos circulated in watch section on Facebook; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR):

(a) to (d): Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has informed that the policies of the Government are aimed at ensuring an Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable Internet for its users. The Government of India has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules 2021) under IT Act, 2000. Part-II of the IT Rules, 2021 relating to intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, inter-alia casts specific obligations on intermediaries relating to information hosted, displayed, uploaded, published, transmitted, stored or shared on their platforms. Intermediaries are required to remove any content violative of any law for the time being in force as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by appropriate government or its authorized agency. In case of failure to follow due diligence as provided in the IT Rules, 2021 by intermediaries, they shall lose their exemption from liability under section 79 of the IT Act and they shall be liable for consequential action as provided in such law.

Under Part-III of IT Rules, 2021 the publishers of news and current affairs on digital media are required to adhere to a Code of Ethics laid down under the Rules and a three-level grievance redressal mechanism to address the grievances relating to violation of the Code.
