Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting highlights the need to strengthen existing laws governing social media and OTT platforms and building a societal consensus

Editorial checks in traditional press played a crucial role in bringing accountability which is missing in the era of social media: Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw

Posted On: 27 NOV 2024 1:50PM by PIB Delhi

While addressing a Parliament Question during the ongoing session of the Lok Sabha today, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Railways, and Electronics & IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, highlighted the urgent need to strengthen existing laws governing social media and OTT platforms.

From editorial checks to uncontrolled expressions

Speaking on the subject, the Union Minister said, "We are living in the era of social media and OTT platforms. However, the democratic institutions and traditional forms of the press that once relied on editorial checks to ensure accountability and correctness of content, have seen these checks diminish over time." He noted that due to the absence of such editorial oversight, social media has become a platform for freedom of press on one hand, but on the other hand, it has also become a space for uncontrolled expression, which often includes vulgar content.

Consensus on stricter laws

Acknowledging the distinct cultural differences between India and the geographies where these platforms originated, Shri Vaishnaw emphasized, "The cultural sensitivities of India vastly differ from those of the regions where these platforms were created. This makes it imperative for India to make existing laws more stricter and he urged everyone to come to a consensus on this matter.

The Minister also urged the Parliamentary Standing Committee to take up this important matter issue as a priority. "There should be societal consensus on it, along with stricter laws to address this challenge" he said.

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Dharmendra Tewari/Kshitij Singha

(Release ID: 2077854) Visitor Counter : 685

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