

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1191**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022

**IT RULES, 2021**

**1191. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the 'authorized agencies' identified by Government that are permitted to send notifications regarding unlawful content to intermediaries under IT Rules, 2021;
- (b) whether the 'inter-departmental committee' under rule 14 has been appointed and met since its appointment; and
- (c) whether there are any penal consequences for non-compliance with Part-III of the Intermediary Guidelines?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a):The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 provides for removal of any unlawful information from the concerned intermediary platforms, on being notified by the appropriate Government or its authorized agency. The authorised agencies are the notified agency(ies) of the appropriate Government ( State and Central Government), responsible for administration of the extant law.

(b): The Inter-Departmental Committee, as mandated by rule 14 of the IT Rules, 2021 has been constituted and has met twice till January, 2022.

(c): Under Part-III of IT Rule, 2021, the publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) and publishers of news and current affairs content on digital media are required to adhere to Code of Ethics prescribed under the Rules. Any violation of Code of ethics by such publishers will be addressed by the three-tier grievance redressal mechanism. Level-II (Self Regulating Body) and Level-III (Oversight Mechanism of Central Government) of the grievance redressal mechanism while addressing the grievance for violation of code of ethics by such publishers may recommend following:-

- (a) warning, censuring, admonishing or reprimanding the publishers; or
- (b) requiring an apology by the publishers; or
- (c) requiring such publishers to include a warning card or a disclaimer; or

(d) in case of online curated content, directing the publisher to—(i) reclassify ratings of relevant content; or (ii) edit synopsis of relevant content; or (iii) make appropriate modification in the content descriptor, age classification and parental or access control.

\*\*\*\*\*