

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 30.11.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**CONTROL ON NEWS AFFECTING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION .**

159

Shri P. Rajeeve

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

- (a) whether there is any law to control the telecast or publication of any news which would affect the criminal investigation or trial of criminal cases;
- (b) if so, the existing guidelines to control the media in this context; and
- (c) whether Government has any statistics with regard to the number of cases in which action has been taken?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

(SMT AMBIKA SONI)

(a)to

(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART

(a) TO

(c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 159 FOR ON 30.11.2009

(a) & (b) There is no provision for pre-censorship of the programmes telecast by Private TV channels. However, all the Private TV Channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. This Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee to look into specific complaints or to take sou-motu cognizance against the violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes. Action is taken whenever any specific violation is found as per the provisions of the Cable Act. Also, this Ministry had constituted a Review Committee for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes. The Committee has submitted its report which is available on this Ministry's website <http://mib.gov.in> for wider public consultation.

So far as the Print Media is concerned, the Press in India is free from Government control. In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the press, the Government does not interfere in its functioning. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory autonomous body set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press. The Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of the Council and it enjoys complete autonomy in its functioning. The Council which is in the nature of a self regulatory body of the Press has built norms of Journalistic Conduct which cover principles and ethics with regard to journalism as also guidelines on reporting the specific issues of public and national importance.

(c) No separate statistics is maintained in this regard.