

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 869  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2017)**

**AMENDMENTS TO CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS (REGULATION) ACT**

**869. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering to amend the provisions of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act so as to develop a system for monitoring of objectionable programmes; receives suggestions, complaints etc. and providing for punishments; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when such a system would be developed?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}**

(a) and (b) As per existing regulatory framework, the telecast of content on private satellite TV channels is regulated through Programme Code and Advertising Codes enshrined in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder which contain a gamut of criteria to be followed while carrying programmes and advertisement in such TV channels. This Ministry has constituted a composite Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) comprising officers from Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law and Justice, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs and a representative from Advertising Standards Council of India, to take cognizance suo moto or to look into specific complaints regarding content on private TV channels. As and when there is a prima facie case of violation by private satellite TV channels in respect of content aired by them, the matter is placed before the IMC for its consideration/recommendations. Thus, IMC functions in a recommendatory capacity. The final decision regarding penalties and its quantum is taken on the basis of the recommendations of IMC by the Ministry such as issuing warnings or advisories to the channels or asking them to run apology scrolls on their channels or directing the channels to be taken off air for a limited period depending on the gravity of the violation. The Ministry has also set up a state-of-art Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content telecast on private satellite TV channels. The regulations contained in Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 framed thereunder have been found to be adequate.

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Further, in a judgement dated 12.01.2017 in WP No.1024 of 2013 in the case of Common Cause Vs.UOI & Ors., the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has advised the Government to formalize the complaint redressal mechanism including the period of limitation within which a complaint can be filed and the concerned statutory authority which shall adjudicate upon the same including the appellate and other redressal mechanisms, leading to a final conclusive determination.