

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2636
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/03/2018**

RESTRICTION ON OBJECTIONABLE CONTENTS AND UNAUTHORISED CHANNELS

2636. SHRI MAJEED MEMON:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) the Union Government has directed States/UTs to restrict the airing of objectionable contents and unauthorized channels to ensure the effective implementation of the Cable TV Act, across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Centre is encouraging State/UTs to use software to monitor content instead of running physical verifications;
- (d) whether it is a fact that out of 16,132 registered publications in Delhi, only 3704 publications have submitted their annual returns during the last five years; and
- (e) if so, list of defunct publications and the number of licenses cancelled by the Ministry?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
[COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]**

(a) & (b): As per existing regulatory framework, all programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels and transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable TV network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programme or advertisement telecast on such TV channels. However, it prescribes that all programmes and advertisements telecast on such TV channels should be in conformity with the aforesaid Programme Code and Advertising Code which contains a wide range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements on TV channels. The Ministry has set up Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private TV channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also been set up in the Ministry to look into the specific complaints or suo-motu take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. The IMC has representatives from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Information & Broadcasting and a representative from the industry in Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). The IMC meets periodically and recommends action in respect of violation of Programme and Advertising Codes by private TV channels. Apart from this, the Ministry has also issued directions to States to set up District level and State level Monitoring Committees to monitor content telecast on cable TV channels.

(c): There is no such proposal.

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(d): As per the records available in the Office of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), out of a total 16141 registered publication in Delhi, as on 14.3.2018, 3828 publications have submitted their annual statements.

(e): RNI provides information regarding registered publications which fail to submit annual returns consistently to the respective District Magistrates. On the basis of inputs from RNI, the declaration is cancelled by District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner of Police concerned as per the Press and Registration of Books Act.
