

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3924
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/04/2023**

BAN ON FOREIGN MEDIA AGENCIES

3924. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any foreign media agencies have been banned or censorship imposed upon them in the country; and
- (b) whether action has been taken against any media agencies on grounds of telecasting news/documentary which was found to be anti-national in nature?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder inter alia empowers the Central Government to take action where a programme on TV is in contravention to the Programme Code laid down there under and in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of India, security of India, friendly relations of India with any foreign state, public order, decency or morality. The Government has taken action in several cases, including in respect of foreign media organizations, by way of issuance of advisory, warning, off-air orders, cancellation of permission, etc.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, under the Information Technology Act, 2000, inter alia empowers the Government to issue directions for blocking for public access of content of digital news publishers as laid down under Section 69A of the Act. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued such direction in respect of several news publishers on various social media platforms, including those from abroad.
