

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 874
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/02/2023**

SLANDEROUS NEWS PROGRAMMES ON NEWS CHANNELS

874. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government has taken cognizance of slanderous news programmes being hosted on Indian news channels, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of complaints against news channels violating the broadcasting guidelines and broadcasting fake news, hate and divisive agenda during the last three years, along with the action taken by Government against such news channels;
- (c) whether Government is planning to initiate any code of conduct or broad guidelines for the debates that happen on electronic media and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): All programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

The Programme Code inter alia provides that no programme should contain anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths and should not criticize, malign or slander any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country.

The Government has an institutional mechanism for taking action in respect of private TV channels which are found to violate the said Code. The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 provide for a three level complaint redressal mechanism; Level I by the broadcaster, Level II by the self regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and Level III by oversight mechanism of the Central Government.

During the period 2020 to January 2023, the Government has taken action against private TV channels for violation of Programme Code in respect of 79 cases by issuance of Advisories, Warnings, Apology Scroll Orders and Off-air Orders etc. The Ministry also issues Advisories from time to time to private satellite TV channels for adhering to the Programme Code.
