

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 876
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/02/2023**

ACTION AGAINST TV CHANNEL ANCHORS

876. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the anchors of some TV channels are deliberately and maliciously spreading hysteria through their programs that are hurting religious sentiments of people and also making racial comments against them;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken cognizance of this issue, if so, the action taken against such anchors,
- (c) if not, whether the existing laws of the country are not effective in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the reasons behind such approach of Government 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 be telecast which contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes or which criticizes, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country.

The Central Government has also notified Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 vide notification No. G.S.R. 416(E) dated 17.06.2021 thereby establishing a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances/ complaints of violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. The Rules provide for a three level complaint redressal mechanisms, 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. The Government takes action against Private TV channels 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.
