

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3376
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/03/2017**

BAN ON T.V. PROGRAMMES

**3376. SHRI OM BIRLA:
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
DR. P. VENUGOPAL:**

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has banned the telecasting of any television programme during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to establish a reasonable balance between decency and freedom and to discourage provocative and inflammatory news in the telecast of programmes in the country; and
- (d) whether it is also true the Government has banned some news channels for a day from telecasting and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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 Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programme or advertisement telecast on such TV channels. However, all programmes and advertisements are required to be in conformity with the said Programme and Advertising Codes which contain a whole range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements including provisions to address content of indecency, provocative and inflammatory news on TV.

The Ministry has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of I&B and comprising officers drawn from Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs and a representative from the industry in Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to take cognizance suo-motu or look into specific complaints regarding violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes. The IMC functions in a recommendatory capacity. The final decision regarding penalties and its quantum is taken by the Ministry on the basis of the IMC recommendations.

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Such action may extend from issue of warnings or advisories to comply with the Programme/Advertising Codes or directing channels to run apology scrolls on their channels and can extend up to taking the channels off air temporarily for varying period depending on the gravity of the violation. As many as 11 TV channels have been ordered to stop transmission for periods ranging from 1 to 30 days during the last three years and the current year. Details are enclosed at **Annexure**.

Further, as part of the self-regulation mechanism, News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has set up News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) in 2008 and formulated a Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards covering a wide range of principles to self-regulate news broadcasting.

Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has set up a mechanism for self-regulation Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) in case of non-news channels. As part of this, IBF has laid down Content Code & Certification Rules 2011 covering an entire gamut of content-related principles and criteria for television broadcast.

With regard to regulation of advertisements on TV channels, the Code adopted by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), a self-regulatory body, has been incorporated in the Advertising Code stipulated in Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. ASCI has set up Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) to consider complaints with regard to advertisements.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERED TO in REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3376 FOR ANSWER ON 22.03.2017****List of private TV channels asked to go off air for telecasting content in violation of the Programme and Advertisement codes during the years 2014 to 2017.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Channel	Reason for Show Cause Notice	Details of action taken
1.	WB	Telecast of a "V/UA" certified film "It's a Boy Girl Thing" showing obscene and women denigrating content.	An order dated 16.01.2014 was issued for taking the channel off air for one day.
2.	NTV	Telecast a song-based programme 'Cine Colors'.	An order dated 19.01.2015 was issued to the channel for taking the channel off air for seven day.
3.	DY 365	Telecast of News report revealing the identity rape victim.	An order was issued on 26.03.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day. The order has been kept in abeyance.
4.	NDTV Good Times	Telecast of programme namely 'WHY AM I STILL SINGLE'.	An order was issued on 26.03.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day. The order has been kept in abeyance.
5.	TLC	Telecast of programme namely 'SEX SENT ME TO THE ER'.	An order was issued on 26.03.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day. The order has been kept in abeyance.
6.	Satlon News	Telecast of News report about a private corporate party organised in a five star hotel on the Pune-Mumbai highway.	An order was issued on 27.03.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for 30 day.
7.	Jai Hind	Telecast of 'A'; certified film, titled 'Hai Harithe'.	An order was issued on 07.04.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day.
8.	Aljazeera TV	Telecast of News report carried wrong graphical map of India repeatedly.	An order was issued on 10.04.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for 5 day.
9.	NDTV INDIA	Telecast of news report on Pathankot terrorist attack.	An order was issued on 02.11.2016 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day. The order has been kept in abeyance.
10.	Care World	Telecast of obscene programme 'Kya Karu Mai Aab.	An order was issued on 02.11.2016 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for seven days.
11.	News Time Assam	Telecast of news report revealing the identity of minor boy.	An order dated 2.11.2016 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day (to carry out the three awards of one day off air concurrently).
	News Time Assam	Telecast of News bulletins showing disturbing visuals of dead bodies.	
	News Time Assam	Telecast of News story defaming the image of MLA and denigrating women.	
