

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3432
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/03/2017**

STATUTORY BODY

3432. SHRI YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to constitute any statutory body for the redressal of complaints related to the programmes being broadcast on television and radio channels and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the provisions to redress the complaints against T.V. and radio channels at present?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b). As per existing regulatory framework, private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder which contain a gamut of criteria to be followed while carrying programmes and advertisement in such TV channels.

FM Radio Channels are required to comply with the terms & conditions of the Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) executed between the channel company and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting at the time of granting permission to run FM radio channels. GOPA provides that the permission holder shall ensure that no content, messages, advertisement or communication, transmitted in its Broadcast Channel is objectionable, obscene, unauthorized or inconsistent with the laws of India. It is also prescribed under the GOPA that FM Radio Channels should follow the same Programme and Advertisement Codes as followed by All India Radio. These Codes & GOPA contain a whole range of parameters to regulate content on FM channels

It is further stated that the Ministry has constituted a composite Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of I&B and comprising officers from Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women & Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs and a representative from Advertising Standards Council of India, to take cognizance suo moto or to look into specific complaints regarding content telecast on private TV channels including FM Radio. The final decision regarding penalties and its quantum is taken on the basis of the recommendations of IMC.

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As part of the self-regulation mechanism, News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has formulated a Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards covering a wide range of principles to self-regulate news broadcasting. They have set up a Two- Tier structure to deal with content related complaints. Complaints are dealt with at Tier I, by the individual broadcasters at their level whereas, at Tier II, by News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA), set up by NBA in 2008. The NBSA, is headed by Justice R.V.Raveendran, retired judge of Supreme Court.

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. The BCCC is presently headed by Justice (Retd.) Mukul Mudgal.

With regard to regulation of advertisements on TV channels, the Code adopted by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), which is 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 in regard to advertisements.
