

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †482**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 06TH FEBRUARY, 2018 / MAGHA 17, 1939 (SAKA)

COMMUNAL INCIDENTS

**†482. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that certain anti-social elements are trying to give communal and casteist twist to criminal incidents taking place in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the media is also presenting/showing these incidents to viewers without verifying the fact;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to incorporate any new provision and amend the existing laws to check such cases and to take stringent action against the guilty persons and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to promote communal harmony in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

(a): As per available information, there is no such trend discernible.

(b) to (d): As regards Print Media, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country and also to inculcate the principles of self-regulation among the press. In furtherance of its objective, the PCI has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. The Council monitors and takes cognizance, *suo-motu* or on complaints, of contents in print media which prima facie, are violative of Norms of Journalistic Conduct framed by Press Council of India. The council may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist.

With respect to advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels, it is stated that as per existing regulatory framework, the programmes are regulated as per Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of the programmes and advertisements aired on these channels. However, all these channels are required to adhere to the said codes. The said codes provide for a wide range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements on TV channels

including the content shown without verification or promoting communal attitudes or likely to encourage violence or giving castiest twist to criminal incidents.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private TV channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also been set up in the Ministry to look into the specific complaints or *suo-motu* take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. The IMC meets periodically and recommends action in respect of violation of Programme and Advertising Codes by private TV channels. Appropriate action is taken as and when any violation of the said codes is established.

The existing provisions contained in the Programme & Advertising Codes and the existing mechanism are considered adequate to regulate content of private satellite TV channels.

(e) In order to maintain communal harmony in the country, the Central Government assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of intelligence, sending alert messages, advisories etc. from time to time on important developments having bearing on

communal harmony. The Central Government on the requests of the States/Union Territories, sends Central Armed Police Forces, including the composite Rapid Action Force, created specially to deal with communal situation.

The Central Government has issued the Communal Harmony Guidelines in 2008, which inter-alia lay down standard operating procedures to be put in place to deal with the situations arising out of communal violence. These guidelines are aimed to maintain due vigilance, careful planning and preparatory measures which may prevent and pre-empt many possible incidents of communal violence. These guidelines are reiterated while sending advisories.
