

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6232  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/04/2018**

**ISSUE OF NOTICES TO NEWS CHANNELS**

**6232. SHRI HARI OM PANDAY:  
DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA:  
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued any notices/warning letters to some of the news channels for promoting anti-national agenda in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the news channels; and
- (c) the reasons for not cancelling the licenses of those news channels?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) 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, it provides that all programmes and advertisements telecast on such TV channels should be in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code and Advertising Code enshrined in the said Act and the rules framed thereunder, which contain a whole range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements on TV channels including the content which is likely to promote anti-national attitudes. In this regard, specific provision in the Programme Code is given as under:

Rule 6 (1) (e) provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes.

The Ministry 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 has representatives from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Information & Broadcasting and a representative from the industry in Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). The IMC meets periodically and recommends action in respect of violation of Programme and Advertising Codes by private TV channels. Apart from this, the Ministry has also issued directions to States to set up District level and State level Monitoring Committees to monitor content telecast on cable TV channels.

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Action against TV channels 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. Before taking such action, usually show cause notices are also issued to the channels. Details of action taken against TV channels for violation of the aforesaid Rule 6 (1) (e) of the Programme Code are at **Annexure**.

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**ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6232 FOR 05.04.2018**

**Action Taken for violation of 6(1)(e) of Programme Code of Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 by private satellite TV channels during the last three years and the current year.**

**Year – 2015**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Channel</b>	<b>Reason for Show Cause Notice</b>	<b>Details of action taken</b>
1.	TV9	Telecast a 'Bullet News' political satire targeting Chief Minister of Telangana.	An order was issued on 27.03.2015 to the channel for running apology scroll.
2.	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.
3.	Sathiyam TV	Telecast of objectionable programme 'Ungal Aseervatha Seram' and Paarathathum Padithathum by Sathiyam TV	A warning dated 12.05.2015 was issued to the channel
4.	Sudarshan News	Telecast of a programme called BINDAAS BOL making allegation about non-salutation of National Flag on the Republic Day by the Hon'ble Vice President.	A warning dated 17.06.2015 was issued to the channel.
5.	DY 365	Telecast of News story defame the image of MLA and denigrating women.	A order dated 07.08.2015 was issued to the channel thereby warning the channel and directing it to run an apology scroll for one day

**YEAR- 2016**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Channel</b>	<b>Reason for Show Cause Notice</b>	<b>Details of action taken</b>
6.	NDTV India TV	Telecast of a programme based on hanging of a 1993 Mumbai serial blast-case convict Yakub Memon	An Advisory dated 01.06.2016 issued to the channel
7.	NDTV 24x7	Telecast of a programme 'Truth vs Hype -the Riddle of Yakub Memon'	An Advisory dated 01.06.2016 issued to the channel
8.	Aaj Tak	Telecast of a programme based on hanging of a 1993 Mumbai serial blast-case convict Yakub Memon	An Advisory dated 07.06.2016 issued to the channel
9.	ABP News	Telecast of a programme based on hanging of a 1993 Mumbai serial blast-case convict Yakub Memon	An Advisory dated 07.06.2016 issued to the channel
10.	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 which was subsequently held in abeyance.

**2017**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Channel</b>	<b>Reason for Show Cause Notice</b>	<b>Details of action taken</b>
----NIL----			

**2018**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Channel</b>	<b>Reason for Show Cause Notice</b>	<b>Details of action taken</b>
----NIL---			

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