

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6436
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/04/2018**

REGULATION OF CONTENTS OF NEWS

**6436. SHRI PR. SENTHIL NATHAN:
SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI BHARATHI MOHAN R.K:**

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to regulate the contents of the news aired 24/7 News Channels and for the censorship of rumour mongering paid news;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken keen note of the increasing trends of paid news and the menace of news sensitization and breaking news culture;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the stringent action or plan of action proposed to be taken/adopted by the Government to tackle the above-said issues?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): As per existing regulatory framework, the telecast of content on private satellite TV channels is regulated as per Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programmes and advertisements telecast on such TV channels. However, it prescribes 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 aforesaid Act and the rules framed thereunder. Action is taken against TV channels whenever violation of the said codes is established. (The Programme Code and Advertising Code are available on the Ministry's website: mib.nic.in).

The Programme and Advertising Codes contain a wide range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements on such TV channels including the content likely to pose menace of news sensationalism and breaking news culture. In this regard, some specific provisions made in the Programme Code are given as under:

Rule 6(c) provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes;

Rule 6(d) provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths;

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Rule 6(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;

It is further stated that no specific instance of paid news in electronic media (private satellite TV channels) has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. Instances of paid news during Election time are directly dealt by Election Commission of India under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

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