

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3867
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03/01/2019**

SCREENING OF OBJECTIONABLE CONTENTS

**3867. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:
SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:
SHRI AJAY NISHAD:**

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether screening of violence, nudity and obscenity are increasing in Films, T.V. programmes and Advertisements on various Television and Doordarshan channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;
- (d) if so, the number of cases registered regarding screening of objectionable contents during each of the last three years and current year and the action taken by the Government during the said period thereto, channel-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up a statutory mechanism for redressal of complaints against private TV channels and radio stations for telecasting/broadcasting objectionable contents and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government also proposes to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 and other related Acts and if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be amended?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films for public exhibition in accordance with Cinematograph Act, 1952, Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 and the guidelines issued there under. The Principle Guidelines for Certifying films issued under section 5B (2) of the Cinematography Act, 1952 lay down the following for certification of films by CBFC:

- Anti-social activities such as violence are not glorified or justified;
- The modus operandi of criminals, other visuals or words likely to incite the commission of any offence are not depicted;
- Human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;
- Such dual meaning words that obviously cater to baser instincts are not allowed;
- Scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented;
- Scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape, rape or any form of molestation or scenes showing sexual perversions or scenes of a similar nature are avoided, and if any such incident is germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown.

Contt.....2/-

Programmes and advertisements on Doordarshan are telecast as per the Doordarshan broadcast code/commercial code for advertising and in conformity with the Programme and Advertising codes prescribed under the Cable Television Network Rules 1994 enshrined under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

In so far as Private TV channels are concerned, the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, inter-alia, provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths.

(c) & (d): Details of action taken against various private TV channels for violation of Programme and Advertising Codes during the last three years and the current year is at **Annexure**.

(e): An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been set up in the Ministry to take cognizance suo-motu or look into the specific complaints regarding violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes by private TV channels and make appropriate recommendations. The Ministry has also issued directions to States to set up District level and State level Monitoring Committees to monitor content telecast on private TV channels and private FM Radio Channels and Community Radio Stations.

The Government 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.

In so far as FM Radio Channels are concerned, they are required to comply with the terms & conditions of the Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) executed by them with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting at the time of granting permission to run FM radio channels. GOPA provides, inter-alia, 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.

Apart from the above, the following are the self-regulatory bodies of broadcasting industry:

(i) News Broadcasters Association (NBA)- a representative body of news and current affairs TV channels has set up News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to consider complaints against or in respect of broadcasters relating to content of any news and current affairs telecast on TV channels.

(ii) Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), which is a representative body of non-News & current affairs TV channels, has set up Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) to examine the complaints about television programmes, and

(iii) Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), a self regulatory body of advertising industry has set up Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) to consider complaints in respect of advertisements.

The above systems are considered adequate.

(f): Ministry of Women & Child Development has informed that taking into account the technological advancement in the field of communications such as social media platforms, etc., the Ministry has taken a considered view to withdraw the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2012 in the present form and also decided to amend the Act to broaden the scope of the law to cover the audio-visual media and content in electronic form.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN PARTS (c) AND (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3867 FOR 03.01.2019****Action Taken by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on violation of Programme and Advertisement Codes by Private TV channels for telecast of objectionable content during the years the last three years and the current year****Year – 2015**

S.No	Name of the Channel	Details of content telecast on TV channels	Details of action taken
1.	Colors TV	Telecast of programme namely " Fear Factor Khatron Ke Khiladi-Darr Ka Blockbuster"	A order dated 08.01.2015 was issued to the channel thereby warning the channel and directing it to run an apology scroll for on day
2.	Lemon News	Telecast of programme namely "Khauf Ke 10 Destination"	A warning dated 19.01.2015 was issued to the channel
3.	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.
4.	24 Ghanta TV	Telecast of news report showing death of a young man without morphing or blurring	A Warning dated 23.03.2015 was issued to channel
5.	NTV	Telecast of news report revealed the identity of sexual harassment minor boy	A Warning dated 23.03.2015 was issued to channel
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 dated 27.03.2015 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for 30 day.
7.	TV9	Telecast a 'Bullet News' political satire targeting Chief Minister of Telangana.	An order dated 27.03.2015 was issued to the channel for running apology scroll.
8.	Jai Hind	Telecast of 'A; certified film, titled 'Hai Harithe'	An order dated 07.04.2015 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day.
9.	Aljazeera TV	Telecast of News report carried wrong graphical map of India repeatedly.	An order dated 10.04.2015 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for 5 day.

10.	Sathiyam TV	Telecast of objectionable programme 'Ungal Aseervatha Seram' and Paarhathum Padithathum by Sathiyam TV	A warning dated 12.05.2015 was issued to the channel
11.	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.
12.	Raj News	Telecast of disturbing visuals of dead bodies without blurring.	A warning dated 22.06.2015 was issued to the channel
13.	Raj News	Telecast of disturbing visuals of a women body burning up into flames without blurring.	A warning dated 02.07.2015 was issued to the channel.
14.	Russia Today TV	Telecast of obscene programme 'Crazy Alert'	An Advisory dated 06.07.2015 was issued the channel.
15.	Channel 2 News	Telecast of disturbing visuals of a man dead body without blurring.	A warning dated 22.07.2015 was issued to the channel.
16.	A2Z News TV	The Channel telecast news reports on various date and revealed the identity of Sexual assault minor victims	A warning dated 07.08.2015 was issued to the channel.
17.	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

S.No	Name of the Channel	Details of content telecast on TV channels	Details of action taken
18.	Care World	Telecast of a programme "Kya Karun Main AB?" on unnatural sex.	A warning dated 24.05.2016 was issued to the channel.
19.	F TV	Telecast of a programme namely fotos in alleged violation of the programme code	An Advisory dated 25.05.2016 was issued to the channel
20.	Raj News	Telecast of News bulletins in alleged violation of the Programme code	An Advisory dated 25.05.2016 was issued to the channel
21.	CVR English News Channel	Telecast of News bulletins showing disturbing visuals of dead bodies	An Advisory dated 25.05.2016 was issued to the channel
22.	Sathiyam TV	Telecast of News bulletins in alleged violation of the Programme code	An Advisory dated 31.05.2016 was issued to the channel

23.	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 was issued to the channel
24.	NDTV 24x7	Telecast of a programme 'Truth vs Hype -the Riddle of Yakub Memon'	An Advisory dated 01.06.2016 was issued to the channel
25.	Oscar Movies	Telecast of 'A' certified films on various dates.	An Advisory dated 06.06.2016 was issued to the channel
26.	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 was issued to the channel
27.	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 was issued to the channel
28.	NDTV INDIA	Telecast of news report on Pathankot terrorist attack	An order dated 02.11.2016 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day
29.	Care World	Telecast of obscene programme 'Kya Karu Mai Aab	An order dated 02.11.2016 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for seven day
30.	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	
	New Time Assam	Telecast of News story defaming the image of MLA and denigrating women.	
31.	People TV	Telecast of News story showing disturbing visuals of dead bodies	A Warning dated 29.11.2016 was issued to the channel
32.	MBC TV	Telecast of news report revealing the identity of sexually assaulted victims.	A Warning dated 29.11.2016 was issued to the channel
33.	Reporter TV	Telecast of News story showing disturbing visuals of violence.	A Warning dated 29.11.2016 was issued to the channel

2017

S.No	Name of the Channel	Details of content telecast on TV channels	Details of action taken
34.	TV-9 (Marathi)	Telecast of news report showing disturbing visuals of death of a man who set himself on fire	An Advisory dated 28.02.2017 was issued to the channel for violation of Programme Code.
35.	All TV Channels	Compliance with Rule 7(10) of Advertising Code	An Advisory dated 10.03.2017 was issued to all TV channels.
36.	All TV Channels	Compliance of Provisions of Drug and Magic remedies Act, 1954 while telecasting advertisements on TV channels	An Advisory dated 12.07.2017 was issued to all TV Channels.
37.	All TV Channels	Telecast of Condom Advertisements between 10:00 PM -6:00 AM while telecasting advertisements on TV channels	An Advisory dated 11.12.2017 was issued to all TV channels.
38.	V TV channel	Telecast a News programme 'Viral Truth' showing disturbing visuals of violence.	An order dated 12.12.2017 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day.
39.	DY 365 TV channel	Telecast a News report showing visuals denigrating child.	An order dated 13.12.2017 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for three days.

2018

S.No	Name of the Channel	Details of Content telecast on TV channels	Details of action taken
40.	All TV channels	Telecast of Republic Day Ceremony/Parade with sign language interpretation	An Advisory dated 24.1.2018 was issued to all TV channels
41.	All TV Channels	Telecast of Independence Day Ceremony/commentary with sign language interpretation	An Advisory dated 13.8.2018 was issued to all TV channels
42.	CVR Health	Telecast of obscene programme 'Healthy Nights' on 29.12.2016 & 30.12.2016	An Order dated 5.9.2018 was issued to take the channel off air for 3 days from 8.9.2018 to 11.9.2018
