BANNING OF TELECAST OF TV PROGRAMMES

6. SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecast of any television programme has been banned by the Government recently;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
(c) the steps being taken by the Government to establish a reasonable balance between decency and freedom in the telecast of programmes in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE; AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c): All private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code as prescribed in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder, as well as the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines 2011 issued by this Ministry.

Under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government is empowered to prohibit transmission of a channel or a programme if it is considered necessary due to national security or in public interest or if it is found to be in violation of Programme & Advertising Code. Similar mandate is available under the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines, 2011, in respect of private satellite TV channels.

However, before taking a decision to prohibit any programme or a channel, the broadcaster is given due opportunity to present his case as a matter of natural justice.

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