

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOKSABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3298

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 21-03-2023)

CABLE NETWORK RULES, 2014

3298. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Cable Network Rules, 2014 prohibits those programmes from being telecast in the cable service which promote anti-national attitude and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is also aware that the term, anti-national attitude has not been defined and remains ambiguous thereby, allowing it to be misused by mischievous elements and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to define anti-national attitude to remove any ambiguity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down in Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 framed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Programme Code inter alia 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 term 'Anti-national attitude' has not been defined in the Programme Code enumerated in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. However, as commonly understood, "Anti-national attitude" in this context means "opposed to national interest".

The Central Government has an institutional mechanism for taking action in respect of private satellite TV channels which are found to violate the said Code. The Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 establish a statutory mechanism to ensure observance and adherence of the Programme Code and to address the grievances/complaints by providing a three level complaint redressal mechanisms, Level I- Self regulation by the broadcasters, Level II- Self regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and Level III by oversight mechanism of the Central Government.
