

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1420
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26/07/2022**

MEDIA TRIALS

1420. SHRI B.B.PATIL:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that tendency of media trial of cases/incidents is increasing day by day in Indian Media and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Press Council of India has expressed grave concern over the media trials and sensitization of news and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of regulatory mechanism to put a check on such programmes; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by the Government to restrict/ban such programmes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a): All programme telecast on private satellite TV channels are regulated in accordance with the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code inter-alia provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which criticizes, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country.

(b): The Press Council of India has framed the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which inter alia have guidelines specifically on 'Trial by Media'. It has issued three advisories in 2020-2021 advising media to adhere to the Norms while reporting cases under investigation.

(c) & (d): Hon'ble Bombay High Court, vide their Order dated 18.01.2021 in the matter of PIL (ST) No. 92252 of 2020 and connected matter, has issued direction with regard to the media coverage of cases under enquiry/ investigation etc. which have been conveyed by the Ministry to the broadcasters for compliance.

This Ministry also issues advisories from time to time to all private satellite TV channels to adhere to the Programme Code. Government takes appropriate action against the TV channels for violation of the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.
