

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2710
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02/08/2022**

VIOLATION OF PROGRAMME AND ADVERTISEMENT CODES

2710. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of movies/ television channels/ digital outlets that have been banned or taken off the air for violation of the programme and advertising codes respectively from July 01, 2017 to July 01, 2022;
- (b) the number of songs which have been banned and their digital dissemination proscribed during the said period;
- (c) whether any information technology guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, 2021 and the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules 2021 have been challenged in various courts;
- (d) if so, the name of petitioner, the court in which these rules stand challenged, the principle grounds of challenge in each petition and the current state of the proceedings notwithstanding the stay by Supreme Court; and
- (e) whether the Government has done any cost benefit analysis of such bans and whether the help in stopping the alleged offensive content and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): All private TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Appropriate action is taken whenever violation of these Codes is found. During the years 2017 - 2022, nine (9) TV channels have been taken off-air for specified time-period for violation of the Programme Code and Advertising Code.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued directions for blocking of 94 YouTube based news channels and 19 social media accounts / websites / mobile applications under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 during 2021-22.

(b): The CBFC has informed that between 2017 and 2022, it has refused certification to 11 songs.

(c) and (d): Several petitions have been filed in High courts of Delhi, Odisha, Kerala, Karnataka, Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and the Supreme Court challenging these Rules. The same are being heard by the Supreme Court.

(e): The orders issued by the Government under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, serve as deterrence in ensuring compliance to the extant laws.
