

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2334
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11/03/2016**

ANTI INDIA MESSAGE

2334. PROF. SAUGATA ROY:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken a *suo motu* cognizance or received complaints of electronic/print media which promotes anti Indian messages, spreading rumours for communal violence in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken so far on various visual and print media in this regard; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to avoid the airing of such types of news and visuals?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels are governed by the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of the programmes and advertisements aired on these channels. However, all these channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement codes which provide for a whole range of parameters to be adhered to for programmes on TV channels. There are specific provisions available in the Programme and Advertisement Code which are as under:-

Programme Code:

Rule 6(1) No programme should be transmitted/re-transmitted on any cable service, which-

- (c): contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes.

(e): is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote-anti-national attitudes.

(h): Contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation.

Advertising Code

Rule 7(2): No advertisement shall be permitted which-

(ii) is against any provision of the Constitution of India.

(v) exploits the national emblem, or any part of the Constitution or the person or personality of a national leader or a State dignitary.

Action is taken whenever any violation is brought to the notice of this Ministry. Details of action taken for the financial year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 in such matters are placed at **Annexure-I**.

In so far as Print Media is concerned, the Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and also to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press. There is no pre-censorship by the Government of India in the print media sector. The PCI, in furtherance of its objective under Section 13(2) of the Act has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the print media. The relevant Norm 23 on the subject 'Paramount National Interest' is placed at **Annexure-II**. The PCI takes cognizance, suo-motu or on complaints, of the contents in print media which are in violation of the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct'. As per section 14 of the Act, the Council, after holding an inquiry, may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist as the case may be.

A list of adjudications rendered by the PCI for the financial year 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 on Anti National Writings and Communal Violence is placed at **Annexure-III**.

ANNEXURE-I**ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2334 FOR 11.03.2016****Action taken against T.V. channels since 2012-13 to 2015-2016****2012-2013**

Sl. No.	Name of the Channel	Date of Show Cause Notice	Reason for Show Cause Notice	Details of action taken
1	All News & Current Affairs channels	No SCN	Direct Telecast of the events round the clock relating to public demonstration likely to encourage violence and against maintenance of law and order and likely to promote anti National attitude.	An Advisory dated 23.12.2012 was issued to the channel.
2	All News & Current Affairs channels	No SCN	Direct Telecast of the events round the clock relating to public demonstration likely to encourage violence and against maintenance of law and order and likely to promote anti National attitude.	An Advisory dated 29.12.2012 was issued to the channel
3.	Sadhna TV	03.08.12	Telecast of programme " AdhyatamikGyanCharcha" showing content contemptuous of religious groups, defamatory and content likely to encourage violence	A Warning dated 06.03.2013 was issued to the channel.

2013-2014

4.	All News & Current Affairs channels	No SCN	Telecast of inflammatory and provocative news/programmes in a sensational manner.	An Advisory dated 20.09.2013 was issued to the channel.
5.	Zee TV	18.09.2013	Telecast of a serial 'Jodha Akbar' containing content promoting communal attitudes, encouraging violence and also defamatory content	A warning dated 20.03.2014 was issued to the channel

2014-2015

Sl. No.	Name of the Channel	Date of Show Cause Notice	Reason for Show Cause Notice	Details of action taken
6.	Headlines Today	17.09.2013	Telecast of special programme called "Muzaffarnagar Conspiracy Exposed".	A warning dated 31.10.2014 was issued to the channel
7.	Sudarshan TV	11.09.2014	Telecast of programme called "SiyaasiDango Mai UP".	A warning dated 31.10.2014 was issued to the channel

8.	All News Channels	No SCN	Telecast of documentary programme India's Daughter	An Advisory dated 03.03.2015 was issued to the all News channels restraining not to telecast the said documentary programme.
9.	All TV Channel	No SCN	Telecast of live coverage of counter-terrorism operations.	An Advisory dated 20.03.2015 was issued to all TV channels.
10.	TV9	14.08.2014	Telecast a 'Bullet News' political satire targeting Chief Minister of Telangana.	An order was issued on 27.03.2015 to the channel for running apology scroll.

2015-2016

11.	Aljazeera TV	21.08.2014	Telecast of News report carried wrong graphical map of India repeatedly.	An order was issued on 10.04.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for 5 day.
12.	Sathiyam TV	16.12.2014	Telecast of objectionable programme 'UngalAseervathaSeram' and PaarthathumPadithathum by Sathiyam TV	A warning dated 12.05.2015 was issued to the channel
13.	All News Channels	No SCN	Telecast of live coverage of any anti-terrorist operation by security forces.	An Advisory dated 27.07.2015 was issued to all News Channels

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2334 FOR 11.03.2016

EXTRACT OF NORMS OF JOURNALISTIC CONDUCT

23. Paramount National Interest

- i) Newspapers shall, as a matter of self-regulation, exercise due restraint and caution in presenting any news, comment or information which is likely to jeopardise, endanger or harm the paramount interests of the State and society, or the rights of individuals with respect to which reasonable restrictions may be imposed by law on the right to freedom of speech and expression under clause (2) of Article 19 of the Constitution of India.
- ii) Publication of wrong/incorrect map is a very serious offence. It adversely affects the territorial integrity of the country and warrants prompt and prominent retraction with regrets.

ANNEXURE-III

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2334 FOR 11.03.2016

Adjudications rendered by the PCI on 'Anti National Writings and Communal Violence'

2012-2013

S. N.	Parties	Date of decision	Category
1.	Complaint of Dr. I.A. Khan Anzana, President, Khankaha Sufi Didar Shah Chisti, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Saptparni, Gorakhpur, U.P.	27 August, 2012	Censured.
2.	Complaint of Shri Sohan Das, State Secretary, Haryana Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Rohtak, Haryana against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Hissar, Haryana	21 December, 2012	Disposed off
3.	Complaint of Shri Binod Kumar Sinha, Dhanbad, Jharkhand against the Editor, Public Magazine, New Delhi	21 December, 2012	Dismissed
4.	Complaint of Shri S.C. Kapoor, Wing Commander (Retd.), NOIDA, UP against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi	21 December, 2012	Dismissed
5.	Complaint of Shri Rubabudin Sheikh, Ujjain, M.P. against the Editor, Swadesh, Indore, M.P.	18 February, 2013	Censured
6.	Complaint of Prof. N.K. Jain, Registrar, Doctor Harsingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, M.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Bhopal, M.P.	18 February, 2013	Dismissed with observation

2013-2014

1.	Complaint of Shri Sudhir Neerattapuram, Kerala against the Editor, Mangalam Daily, Kerala	26 March, 2014	Dismissed - Complainant's locus in the matter not established
2.	Complaint of Shri A. Thaha, Hyderabad against the Editor, The Hindu, Chennai	26 March, 2014	Dismissed - No action against respondent warranted

2014-2015

1.	Complaint of Shri L.S. Herdenia, Bhopal against the Editor, Panchjanya, New Delhi	2 June, 2014	Dismissed for default
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2015-2016

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