

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1189
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
CENSORING OF TV PROGRAMMES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act proposes to prevent the operation of any cable television network in public interest;
- (b) if so, the main provisions in this regard;
- (c) whether it will be helpful in checking the TV programmes of private entrepreneurs; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which it is likely to be helpful?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 was amended by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2000 and empowers the Central Government :-

(i) to prohibit the operation of any cable television network in such areas as notified, if considered necessary or expedient in public interest;

(ii) to regulate or prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of any channel or programme, if considered necessary or expedient in the interest of -

- i) sovereignty or integrity of India; or
- ii) security of India; or
- iii) friendly relations of India with any foreign State; or
- iv) public order, decency or morality.

(iii) to regulate or prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of any programme of any channel which is not in conformity with the prescribed programme or advertisement codes.

(c) & (d): These amendments empower the Central Government to regulate such programmes that violate the prescribed codes or are against the interests of sovereignty or security of the country.