

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:360

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004

VIOLENCE AND OBSCENITY IN DD PROGRAMMES

Das Shri Khagen;Lal Chandra Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of programmes and advertisements being telecast on Doordarshan and cable T.V. are full of vulgarity, obscenity and violence;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has identified such advertisements and programmes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government propose to frame any National Policy on television or enact any new law for electronic media including cable T.V. to check the increasing violence, crimes and obscenity on T.V.; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 360 FOR ANSWER ON 19/08/2004

(a) to (c): Programmes and advertisements of all satellite TV channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

Programme Code, inter alia, provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which offends against good taste or decency, contains anything obscene, is likely to encourage or incite violence, contravenes the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Similarly, Advertising Code provides that advertisements carried in the cable service shall be so designed as to conform to the laws of the country and should not offend morality, decency and religious susceptibilities of the subscribers. The Advertising Code, inter alia, provides that no advertisement shall be permitted which tends to incite people to crimes, cause disorder or violence or breach of law or glorifies violence or obscenity in any way. The Code further provides that indecent, vulgar, suggestive, repulsive or offensive themes or treatment shall be avoided in all advertisements.

The action for violations of the codes can be taken by any authorised officer i.e. SDM, DM or Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the official gazette by the Central Government or State Government. The Central Government has constituted two inter-ministerial committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violations of the Programme and Advertising Code either suo-moto or on receipt of specific complaint. On the recommendations of these committees, appropriate action is taken against TV channels for violations of the provisions of the Codes. This is a continuing process.

Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Advertisement Code does not allow vulgar languages, obscenity and violence. Doordarshan Broadcast Code inter alia does not permit anything obscene, incitement to violence etc.

(d) to (e): The matter is under consideration.