

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:75
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
SHOW CAUSE NOTICE TO TV CHANNELS
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any show cause notice to TV channels for violation of \ norms during 2008-09 and 2009-10 in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise, channel-wise;
- (c) the number of complaints received by the Government against such TV channels alongwith the action taken during the said period, channel-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the broadcasting of objectionable and indecent programmes by various TV channels in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 75 FOR ANSWER ON 02.03.2010

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) A total number of 79 show cause notices were issued to various TV Channels in the year 2008-09 & 2009-10. A statement showing the names of TV Channels and details of action taken is annexed.

(d) As per existing Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act- 1995 all programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Action is taken as per rules whenever any violation of Code is brought to the notice of the Government. This Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific complaints or suo motu take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising codes and action is taken as per rules if violation is established. Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private television channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes.

The Government had constituted a committee for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and the rules framed thereunder to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing codes. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government which is available on the website of the Ministry www.mib.nic.in under the heading "Self Regulation Guidelines 2008".

The Government has recently set up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I & B) for holding wider consultation with stakeholders to arrive at a consensus regarding the provisions of the draft content code.