

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:866
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
TV PROGRAMMES DEPICTING SUPERSTITIONS
Pandey Saroj

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints of the telecasting of programmes promoting sorcery and superstitions on Doordarshan, private TV channels and News channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against such TV channels during each of the last three years and the current year, channel-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to discourage/ curb the telecasting of such programmes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

(a) & (b) Some instances of TV programmes promoting superstition have been brought to the notice of the Government. A statement showing the details of Show Causes Notices issued to various TV channels for showing programmes spreading superstition during last three years is annexed.

(c) to (e) 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.