

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3956  
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010  
ADVISORY ON MEDIA COVERAGE  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

(a) whether the Government has issued any advisory to TV channels against covering interviews of alleged terrorists and separatists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Government has issued an advisory dated 24.02.2010 to all News and Current Affairs channels.

(b) The details can be seen in the Advisory which is annexed. The advisory was issued in the wake of terror attacks in Mumbai. It was noticed that some TV Channels arranged and telecast interviews with terrorists/terrorist groups which provided them a platform to justify their nefarious activities and obtain coverage on prominent channels. Such undue coverage to terrorists and allowing them to air their views freely could jeopardize national security, as well.

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3956 FOR ANSWER ON 20.04.2010

No. 804/29/2008-BC-III

Dated: 24th November, 2009

ADVISORY

This is in continuation of the directives issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 27th November 2008 and 3rd December 2008, regarding the coverage of incidents by electronic media during terrorist attacks in Mumbai. In the said directives, electronic TV channels were asked to exercise caution while providing coverage to the incidents to avoid any adverse consequences on the rescue operations.

It has also been noted that in the past some TV channels arranged and telecast interviews with terrorists/terrorist groups. In a particular case, a prominent TV Channel telecast a phone interview with a dreaded terrorist who tried to internationalize the Kashmir issue using the electronic mass media. This kind of coverage can cause confusion amongst the domestic and international audience. The interviews with terrorists have provided a platform to them justify their nefarious activities and obtain coverage on prominent channels which is seen as a major achievement and enabling them to put forward their distorted views to a wide audience. Such undue coverage to terrorists and allowing them to air their views can jeopardize national security as well.

This matter has been under examination in this ministry and in the ministry of Home Affairs and Government has taken a very serious view regarding airing of interviews with terrorists/terrorist groups by the TV Channels.

While the media has generally played a very constructive role in bringing out relevant issues regarding terrorism and has condemned terrorists for their brutal and ruthless ways, it must, however, be emphasized that media must continue to cover terrorism and terrorist related issues with great responsibility and sensitivity.

In the interests of national security and on advice of Ministry of Home Affairs, the media is hereby advised to avoid giving undue coverage to terrorists and terrorist groups which may help them to advance their political agenda. Such coverage would amount to gross violate the provisions of the Programme Code contained in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

Sd/-

(SUPRIYA SAHU)

DIRECTOR (BC)

Tele # 23389202

To

All News and Current Affairs TV Channels

News Broadcasters Association

Indian Broadcasting Foundation