

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1412
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010
DEPICTION OF OUTLAWED COUSTOMS ON TV
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) whether there are reports of the depiction of outlawed customs including child marriage and bigamy through serials broadcast by various TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, channel-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of such programmes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action the taken in this regard, channel-wise; and
- (e) the measures taken to prevent the broadcasting of such TV programmes?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) No such reports have been brought to the notice of the Government. However, a complaint dated 01.08.2008 was received in the Ministry against a programme namely 'Balika Vadhu' telecast on 'Colors' Channel. The complainant had alleged that the programme was promoting and glorifying child marriage.
- (c) & (d) The matter was examined in the Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Women and Child Development and it was found that the serial was conceptualized to highlight the evils of child marriages. The serial did not try to glorify child marriages. Due to the Ministry's intervention the Channel displayed repeated short messages to convey the evils of child marriage during the promos of the serial.
- (e) There is no pre-censorship of the Programme telecast on Private TV channels. However, 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 violation of Codes is brought to the notice of the Government.