

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:266
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
CURBING VULGARITY IN MEDIA
J Helen Davidson;Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition and powers proposed to be granted to the said Council and the time by which the same is likely to become operational;
- (c) the manner in which the said Council is likely to help in curbing vulgarity in the electronic media;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to grant additional powers to the Press Council of India to effectively deal with cases of depiction of vulgarity in the print media; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 266 FOR ANSWER ON 15.03.2011

(a) to (c) The Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), an industry body representing major satellite TV channels, is in the process of setting up a two tier self-regulatory mechanism on content for entertainment channels with the first tier at the level of broadcaster and the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) at the second tier. Consultations have taken place between the Ministry and IBF to finalize the broad structure of the proposed BCCC.

The BCCC is proposed to be a 13 Member body consisting of a Chairperson being a retired judge of Supreme Court or High Court and 12 other Members. Of these 12 Members, four will be drawn from among the broadcasters, four will be persons of eminence and repute from outside the industry and four will be from the Statutory National Commissions. In the last category, the National Commissions will be mandatorily represented by National Commission for Women (NCW), the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) and National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC). The fourth Member will be selected for a meeting of BCCC depending on the nature of the complaint, to represent other National Commissions like National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Other Backward Classes, National Commission for Minorities, National Human Rights Commission. It is envisaged that either the Chairperson of the Commission or a Member of the Commission will be represented on the BCCC.

The BCCC will have the mandate to look into all complaints relating to violation of Code by entertainment channels, and give suitable directions to concerned channels to modify or withdraw any objectionable content. Since majority of the members of BCCC are drawn from persons of eminence and from Statutory Commissions, the BCCC is likely to provide a credible and acceptable self regulatory mechanism for addressing the issues relating to objectionable content on TV channels.

(d) &(e) : The Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body, was set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 for preserving the freedom of press and maintaining and improving the standard of newspapers and news agencies in India and for inculcating the principles of self regulation among the press. PCI has proposed amendments in the Press Council Act, 1978 to arm the Press Council with more powers for effective implementation of its directives. The amendments to the Act will be drafted carefully after carrying out wide consultations with the stakeholders and evolving consensus on the important issues relating to the media.