

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:22  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011  
REGULATING TELEVISION CONTENT  
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of depiction of violence, horror, vulgarity etc. on various television channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of complaints received and follow-up action taken by the Government against such erring TV channels during each of the last three years and the current year, channel-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring changes/amendments in the relevant rules/Act to check depiction of such content in the print and the electronic media;
- (d) if so, the time by which such amendments are likely to be made; and
- (e) if not, the other corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 22 FOR ANSWER ON 02.08.2011

- (a) Some instances of violence, obscenity and vulgarity etc., shown on private satellite television channels have been brought to the notice of Government.
- (b) A Statement Showing action taken against such violations in the television channels is at Annexure.
- (c) & (d) There is no such proposal.
- (e) There is no pre-censorship of the programmes and advertisements telecast on private television channels. However, all private television channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code and the Advertising Code stipulated in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Whenever any violation of these Codes is brought to the notice of the Ministry, appropriate action is taken as per the provisions of the said Act. Government has also closely worked with the broadcasting industry to promote self regulation with a view to facilitating better content generation and effective content-related complaints redressal. In this direction, self-regulation mechanism has been set by Industry representative bodies both in case of News and Non-News TV channels. News Broadcasters Association has formulated a Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards for self-regulation of News Channels. Indian Broadcasting Foundation has also formulated a Content Code and Certification Rules for self-regulation of Non-News Channels.

For the purpose of content-related redressal of complaints, both NBA and IBF have set up a Two-Tier structure. At Tier I, the complaints are to be addressed at broadcasters level. For News Channels, NBA has set up News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) at Tier II, which is a nine Member body and is headed by a retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. For Non-News Channels, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has also set up Broadcast Content Complaints Council (BCCC) at Tier II, which is a 13 member body headed by a retired High Court Judge.

In regard to regulation of advertisements on TV channels, the code adopted by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), which is a self-regulatory body, has been incorporated in the Advertising Code stipulated in Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. ASCI has set up a Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) to consider complaints in regard to advertisements. These are important milestones in self-regulation of content being shown on television channels.

In regard to Print media, the Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press. Accordingly, PCI, in order to prevail upon the Press to practice self-regulation, have formed 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' under section 13(2)(b) of the Press Council Act, 1978. These norms cover general principles and ethics of journalism as well as guidelines on specific issues such as communal disturbances, terrorism, AIDS, Financial Journalism, Election

Reporting etc. Para 17 of the 'Norms' deals with the subject "Obscenity and Vulgarity to be eschewed" whereas Para 19 deals with the subject 'Violence not to be glorified'. The PCI's Norms of 'Journalistic Conduct' have been evolving over the years and presently, the year 2010 edition is being followed by the Press."