

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011
SETTING UP OF BCCC
Bhoi Shri Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government had proposed to set up a Broadcast Content Complaints Council (BCCC) in consultation with the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) for self regulation by the satellite TV channels on the content of their programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status in the matter; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be operational?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Yes sir, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), an industry body representing major satellite TV channels, in consultation with the Ministry, has set 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 second tier. The BCCC is a 13 Member body consisting of a Chairperson being a retired judge of Supreme Court or High Court and 12 other Members. The composition of other members are as under:

- (i) Four eminent persons
- (ii) Four broadcaster members
- (iii) Four members from any national level Statutory Commissions

In the last category, the National Commissions will mandatorily represented by National Commission for Women (NCW), the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) 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 Other Backward Classes, National Commission for Minorities. 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 Programme Code by entertainment channels, and give suitable directions to concerned channels to modify or withdraw any objectionable content. If it is reported to the BCCC or it comes to its notice that any Broadcaster/Television Channel is not complying with its directions, it has the mandate to initiate any one or a combination of the following action:-

- (i) Issue a warning to implement the direction within next forty-eight hours.
- (ii) Air an apology in such manner as may be decided.
- (iii) Issue a directive to the IBF not to consider the outstandings of that Channel for processing till the matter is resolved.
- (iv) Issue a directive to IBF to take necessary action to expel the concerned member.
- (v) In exceptional cases of a Television Channel not carrying out the directions of the BCCC, the BCCC may recommend to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for appropriate action against the Channel, as per the law.

Any Directive issued by the BCCC to the IBF shall be binding and must be implemented with immediate effect. The BCCC has come into operation in the month of June 2011 and the first meeting of BCCC was held on 30.6.2011.