

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:964
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
SUPERSTITIOUS PROGRAMMES ON TV
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that certain TV channels including Doordarshan are telecasting superstitious/religious programmes encouraging irrationality and vulgarity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, channel-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban such programmes/serials being telecast by the said channels;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Some instances of private satellite TV channels showing programmes based on superstition have come to the notice of the Government. While some programmes portray superstitious practices and beliefs, some other relate to beliefs about haunted houses and abodes.

(c)to(e): Cable Television Networks(Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder regulates the telecast of programmes by private satellite TV channels. The Act does not provide for any pre-censorship of programmes telecast by such television channels. However, the Act clearly provides that all programmes telecast by private satellite television should be strictly in accordance with the Programme Code laid down thereunder. Clause 6(1)(j) of the Programme Code already provides that no programme can be transmitted/re-transmitted through Cable Service which encourages superstition or blind-belief. However, considering that despite such provisions, some television channels were telecasting programmes based on superstition and blind belief, the Ministry has recently issued an Advisory to all TV channels to telecast programmes with due care and maturity, strictly adhering to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.