

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6267
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
FUNCTIONING OF NEWS CHANNELS
Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether a number of sensational and obscene programmes are being telecast on various news channels falling under the news category;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed by the Government for the news channels;
- (c) whether all the news channels are following the set norms while airing the news telecast on their channels; and
- (d) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Some instances of obscene programmes telecast by news channels have come to the notice of the Government. Details of action taken in the last more than two years in this regard is given in the Annexure. The telecast of programmes by private satellite/cable television channels is regulated by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of the programmes telecast by such TV channels. However, it provides that all programmes telecast by these TV channels should be in accordance with the Programme Code, which has been laid down in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. The said Programme Code is applicable to all private satellite/cable television channels including news channels. The Programme Code lays down a whole range of principles that are required to be strictly followed by these TV channels.