

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1754
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012
SUPERSTITIOUS PROGRAMMES ON TV CHANNELS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various private television including Doordarshan (DD) channels are telecasting programmes based on witchcraft, magic and superstitions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases reported along with the action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, channel-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to check airing of such programmes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) & (b) Some instances of programmes in private satellite/cable television, promoting superstition have been brought to the notice of the Government. A statement showing the details of action taken against various TV channels for showing programmes spreading superstition during each of the last three years and the current year is annexed. In so far as Doordarshan is concerned, Doordarshan has informed that programmes based on witchcraft, magic and superstition are not considered or telecast over Doordarshan channels.

(c) All programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of programmes or advertisements being telecast on private satellite/cable television channels. However, action is taken as per rules whenever any violation of Code is brought to the notice of the Government. This Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific complaints or suo motu take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising codes and action is taken as per rules if violation is established. Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private television channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. State level monitoring committees have been set up in 16 States and 5 Union Territories and District level monitoring committees have been set up in 274 Districts all over the Country to monitor the programmes being telecast in private satellite/cable television channels.

This Ministry has also issued advisory dated 17-11-2011 to the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) and the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) to impress upon the private television channels not to carry advertisements claiming supernatural property/quality and similar advertisements which are not in accordance with Rule 7(5) of the Advertising Code.