

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1819  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012  
PROGRAMMES ON TV  
Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

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

whether the Government has any mechanism to regulate the programmes on sensitive issues telecast by television channel;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken note of a large number of illegal / unauthorized television channels being operated by cable operators in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such channels detected along with the action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, State – wise and channel – wise and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop/check the operation of such channel?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) All private satellite channels are required to abide by the Programme Code and Advertisement Code laid down in the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. The said programme and advertisement codes are applicable to all private satellite/cable television channels.

The Programme and Advertisement Codes lay down a wide range of principles that are required to be followed by these channels. Whenever an instance of violation in the programmes or advertisements by private satellite/cable TV channels is noticed, appropriate action as per the said Act is taken. The Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into specific complaints or suo moto take cognizance of the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. Action is taken as per the said Act and Rules framed thereunder, if any violation is established. As a further initiative, monitoring committees have been set up at State level (16 States and 5 Union Territories) and District level (274 Districts), to monitor violation of the programmes and advertisement telecast in the private satellite channels.

(c) to (e): The Cable operators are regulated as per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules thereunder. The Scheme of enforcement envisaged under this Act and Rules is primarily through the authorized officers who are District Magistrate, Sub Divisional Magistrate and the Commissioner of Police of the State Government. Whenever a complaint is brought to the notice of the Ministry, they are sent to the authorized officers as the action as per the Act primarily remains in the domain of Authorized Officers.

Security agencies have identified a list of 24 illegal foreign channels and observed that the contents of some of these channels are not conducive to the security environment in the country and pose a potential security hazard. The details of the 24 illegal foreign Channels are annexed.

The Ministry has proposed certain amendments in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 to address the problem of illegal Telecast of foreign channels. These amendments, inter alia, include making transmission of illegal channels a cognizable offence and enhancing the existing financial penalties in the Act with a view to discourage Cable Operator from transmitting illegal channels. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Second Amendment Bill, 2011 containing these amendments was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 15th of December 2011 and has been referred to the Standing Committee on IT for examination. The Standing Committee has since submitted its report to both Houses of Parliament and the recommendations of the Standing Committee on IT are under examination in the Ministry.

**ANNEXURE**

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1819 TO BE ANSWERED ON 4/12/2012

1. QTV (Pakistan)
2. Peace TV (Dubai)
3. Madni TV (Pakistan)
4. Saudi TV

5. TV Maldives
6. ARY TV
7. PTV
8. PTV Home
9. PTV World
10. Geo TV (Pakistan)
11. Dawn (Pakistan)
12. express (Pakistan)
13. Waqat (Pakistan)
14. Noor TV (Pakistan)
15. Hadi TV (Pakistan)
16. Aaj (Pakistan)
17. NTV (Bangladesh)
18. XYZ TV
19. Nepal
20. Filmax (Pakistan)
21. STV (Pakistan)
22. Kantipur (Nepal)
23. Ahmedia Channel (U.K. Based)
24. Bhutan Broadcasting service