

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:403

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

VIOLATION OF CABLE ACT BY TV CHANNELS

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

- (a) the details of TV channels reported to have violated the Programmes and Advertising Codes under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 alongwith the action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, channel-wise;
- (b) the number of complaints received by the Government/Inter-Ministerial Committee set up to examine the cases of violation of the Programmes and Advertising Codes during the said period;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the advertisements, depicting women in a vulgar manner;
- (d) if so, the number of such cases reported in the print and the electronic media along with the penal action taken against those found guilty during the said period, media-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a regulatory framework to prevent the depiction of women in obscene and vulgar manner in the media; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) The details of TV channels reported to have violated the Programme and Advertising Codes under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 alongwith the action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, channel-wise is given in the Annexure-1.
- (b) During the last three years and the current year 137 complaints have been received by the Government/Inter-Ministerial Committee, set up to examine the cases of violation of the Programme & Advertising Codes.
- (c) & (d) Some instance of advertisements, depicting women in a vulgar manner has come to the notice of the Government. Regarding electronic media, a list of those found guilty during the last three years and the current year and penal action taken against them are annexed at Annexure-2. Regarding Print media, a list of cases received alongwith decisions taken by the Press Council of India in the matter is attached at Annexure-3.
- (e) & (f) All programmes telecast by private satellite/cable television channels are regulated under the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Act provides that the programmes should be in accordance with the Programme Code and the Advertising Code, which has been laid down in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. The Programme & Advertising Codes lay down a whole range of principles that are required to be strictly followed by these TV channels. Details of the Programme and Advertising Codes are available on Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. Regarding print media, the Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with the twin objective to preserve the freedom of press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspaper and news agencies in India and also to inculcate.

the principles of self-regulation. Accordingly, the Council has built 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which cover principles and ethics of journalism, for adherence by the media. The norm 17 of the subject "Obscenity and Vulgarity to be eschewed" prescribes that the newspapers/ journalists shall not publish anything which is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public good taste. The Norm 36 lays down guidelines for 'Advertisements'.