

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1205  
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013  
FUNCTIONING OF NEWS CHANNELS  
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

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

- (a) whether several sensational and obscene programmes are being telecast on various channels falling under the news category;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria laid down by the Government for the news channels;
- (c) whether all the news channels are following the set norms while airing the news on their channels; and
- (d) if not, the action taken against such channels including the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Some instances of obscene programmes telecast by news channels have come to the notice of the Government. The telecast of programmes by private satellite/cable television channels is regulated by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Act 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. Details of action taken against private satellite television channels during the last one year for violation of the Programme Code, brought to the notice of the Government is given in the Annexure.