

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3534
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
MONITORING OF TV CONTENT BY BCCC
Das Shri Ram Sundar

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

- (a) whether the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has a mandate to monitor the content of the programmes being telecast on the TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the composition of the BCCC and the criteria fixed for selection of office bearers to the said council; and
- (d) the steps taken to educate the general public about the existence of BCCC?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The self-regulatory mechanism put in place by a body of broadcasters i.e. Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) through Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has not been mandated by any statute and is broadly guided by IBF's self-regulatory content guidelines for non-news channels.

As part of this Self regulatory initiative by private broadcasters, IBF has set-up a two-tier complaints redressal system for general entertainment channels. At the first level, each member broadcaster has set-up a Standard & Practices (S&P) Department with a content auditor to deal with the complaints received against the content aired on its channel. At the next level of self regulatory complaint redressal mechanism, the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has been set-up, which has started functioning since June 2011.

(c) The Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has informed that the BCCC is chaired by Justice (Retd.) A.P. Shah (former Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi). It has 12 members consisting of four Non-Broadcaster members, four members from National statutory Commissions and four Broadcaster members.

BCCC has informed that the criterion for selection of the Chairperson is that he/she should be a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court. The selection is by majority decision of the board of IBF. The Four (4) Non-Broadcaster Members should be renowned persons of impeccable integrity, high social standing and outstanding achievements, selected by a panel of eminent persons appointed by the IBF Board from the following fields:

- a. An eminent administrator with relevant experience
- b. An eminent media critic/expert
- c. A person who has been a member of the CBFC for two years or more
- d. An eminent social worker

The Four (4) Members from National Level Statutory Commissions shall either be the Chairperson or Member of such Commissions. One Member each shall be from National Commission for Women (NCW), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) and National Commission for Scheduled Caste (NCSC) respectively. The Fourth Member shall be from any of the National Level Statutory Commissions such as National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), National Commission for Minorities (NCM), National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), to be selected on a rotational basis, depending on the nature of complaint being dealt by BCCC in a particular meeting.

BCCC has informed that the Four (4) Broadcaster Members are selected by voting at the Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the IBF, to ensure fair and transparent representation.

(d) BCCC has informed that all general entertainment channels regularly run scroll/ticker on their screens several times every day, informing the public about the complaint redressal mechanism of BCCC and advises the general public to lodge their content-related complaints through a devoted Post Box No. 3812, New Delhi 110049 and online by logging on to the website www.ibfindia.com. All information relating to complaints and their redressal are available on the website. They have also stated that regular Press Conferences are held to inform the general public about its activities through the Media.