

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4779
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
AMENDMENTS IN CINEMATOGRAPH CABLE ACT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether public exhibition of films is governed by the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and television programme and advertisements are regulated by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995;
- (b) if so, whether in view of continued exhibition of indecent contents on cinema and cable television and advertisements, these laws are not sufficient to protect the interests of viewers;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend these two acts to prohibit indecent contents in cinema and cable TV;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Entry 60, List I of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution empowers the Central Government to make laws for certification of cinematograph films. Under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has been established to certify films in order to make them eligible for public viewing. The Ministry has recently set up a Committee headed by Justice Mudgal, a retired Chief Justice of High Court of Punjab & Haryana, which would look into the issues related to certification under Cinematograph Act and submit its report in a time bound manner. As regards programmes telecast on TV channels, there is no pre-censorship of programmes. However, programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels are governed by the Programme Code and Advertising Code as provided in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. These Codes lay down the entire gamut of principles that are required to be followed by the TV channels, while telecasting a programme.

The Ministry has set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) for monitoring and recording of the content telecast by various TV channels on a 24x7 basis with a view to keeping a watch over any violations of the Programme and Advertising Codes. The Ministry has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into possible violation of Programme and Advertising Codes by TV channels and make appropriate recommendations. Action is taken whenever any violation is reported to the Ministry. Programme Code and Advertising Code as provided in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 are effective means to regulate content on TV channels and there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to review the same.