

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3053
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
CENSORSHIP ON NEWS
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether any rule or guideline of censorship does not apply on the news presented by the news channels and the programmes telecast on the television and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is necessary to put a tab on the misuse of freedom of media vis-à-vis protecting their freedom;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether vulgar, cheap, indecent and anti-social programmes based on sensation or murder, rape and loot related crimes in the name of news are polluting the society;
- (e) if so, the measures the Government has taken or proposes to take to standardise such programmes being telecast on news channels; and
- (f) if not, the reason therefor?

Answer

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

(a) The telecast of programmes including news-based programmes on private satellite TV channels is regulated under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programmes telecast on such TV channels. However, it prescribes that all programmes should be in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code, which contains a whole range of principles to be followed by these TV channels.

(b) & (c) The Constitution also allows State to impose reasonable restrictions on Article 19(1)(a) on certain grounds such as the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of Court, defamation or incitement to an offence, as laid down under Art. 19(2). Similarly reasonable restrictions can be imposed under certain situations on the freedom to practice any profession, business etc. under Article 19(1)(g). This spirit of the Constitution is also reflected in the PCI Act, as well as Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which while upholding the freedom of Press and Electronic Media, imposes reasonable restrictions in public interest.

(d) to (f) Although, no such study/reports has been brought to the notice of the Government, whenever violation of the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder are brought to the notice of the Government, stringent action is taken. The Government has set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private television channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. An Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also been set up in the Ministry of I & B, to look into the specific complaints or suo-motu take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes, reported by the EMMC, and appropriate action is taken as per the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, if any violation is established.