

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:111
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013
CONTENT REGULATION IN MEDIA
Lal Shri Kirodi

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

- (a) whether a self-regulatory body viz. Broadcast Content Complaints Council (BCCC) is in existence in the broadcasting sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the composition of the said Council and the powers exercised by that body;
- (c) the manner in which the said Council checks indecent contents in the electronic media;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to grant additional powers to the Press Council of India (PCI) to effectively tackle the cases showing similar objectionable contents in the print media; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 111 TO BE ANSWERED ON 12-12-2013

(a): The Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC), the self-regulatory mechanism for non-news general entertainment channels, was set up in June, 2011 by the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF).

(b) & (c) : The BCCC is a 13-Member body. It is headed by a retired Judge of the High Court or the Supreme Court of India. The composition of the Council is as follows:

i) Four (4) eminent Members drawn from different walks of life.

ii) Four (4) representatives from national-level statutory commissions, viz., National Commission for Women (NCW), National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), National Commission for Minorities (NCM), National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), etc.

iii) Four (4) Broadcast Members from different broadcasting organisations/channels.

The BCCC has formulated exhaustive Self-Regulatory Guidelines after wide ranging consultations with various stakeholders. Complaints relating to violation of their Guidelines are placed before the Council. Decisions taken by BCCC are communicated to channels for necessary compliance.

BCCC can take following action with regard to violations of its Guidelines by the Member channels:

i) Issue a Warning to implement the direction within next forty-eight hours.

ii) Air an Apology in such manner as may be decided.

iii) Issue a Directive to IBF (Indian Broadcasting Foundation) not to consider the outstandings of that Channel for processing till the matter is resolved.

iv) Issue a Directive to IBF to take necessary action to expel the concerned member.

v) In exceptional cases of a Television Channel not carrying out the directions of BCCC, the Council may recommend to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for appropriate action against the Channel as per the law.

vi) Any Directive issued by the BCCC to the IBF shall be binding and must be implemented with immediate effect.

vii) In certain exceptional cases of severe violation of IBF's Self-Regulatory Guidelines, levy a Financial Penalty on the said Channel that may go up to Rs.Thirty Lakh (Rs.30,00,000/-).

(d) & (e): The proposed amendments to the Press Council Act, 1978 to grant additional powers to the Pres Council of India (PCI) are at the stage of examination and it considered necessary, the amendments to the Press Council Act would be drafted carefully after wide consultations with the stakeholders and evolving consensus on the important issues relating to the media.