

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1241

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013

OBSCENITY VULGARITY THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND PRINT MEDIA

Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the youths are influenced by the obscenity and vulgarity through the electronic media and print media and due to careless attitude of the film industry resulting in the rapes, murders and other anti-social activities in the society;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being 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 (c) No such study has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. There is no pre-censorship of programmes telecast on Private TV channels. However, all programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels and transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Action is taken as per rules whenever violation of Codes is brought to the notice of the Government.

In respect of films, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) primarily certifies films for public viewing. In February, 2013 an expert committee was setup under Chairmanship of Justice Mukul Mudgal to review matters relating to Film Certification. The Committee submitted its report in September, 2013 along with a draft Cinematograph Bill which has since been uploaded on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. Among issues that were examined by the Mudgal Committee was the issue of the guidelines for certification which closely concerns itself also with the subject of obscenity and vulgarity in films.

The Government, in pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of press, does not exercise any control on the content in print media. However, the Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and also to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press. The PCI in furtherance of its objective under Section 13 (2) of the Act has been mandated to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards. Accordingly, the Press Council has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. The relevant norm 17 relating to 'Obscenity and Vulgarity, is available at website i.e www.presscouncil.nic.in. The PCI, on specific complaints/suo moto adjudicates under section 14 of the Act and if satisfied that any violation of norms has taken place, it takes action to warn, admonish or censure the publication/journalist concerned.