

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2632
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
DEFAMATORY CONTENTS IN ELECTRONIC BROADCAST
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has set up any mechanism to regulate and control the obscene, vulgar and defamatory materials in electronic media including social networks like Facebook, You Tube etc:
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor

Answer

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

(a) to (c): All programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels 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

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the violations of the Programme and Advertisement Codes. IMC has representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs and a representative from Industry i.e. from Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content telecast on Private satellite television channels round the clock.

As part of self-regulating initiative, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has set up Broadcast Content Complaints Council (BCCC) to consider content related complaints in case of private entertainment satellite TV channels. News Broadcaster Association (NBA) has set up News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to consider content related complaints in case of private news satellite TV channels. Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has set up Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) to consider content related complaints regarding advertisement in case of private news and non-news satellite TV channels.

Further, State levels committees have been set up by 18 states and 5 Union Territories and District level monitoring committees have been set up by 278 Districts all over the country to monitor the programmes being telecast in cable TV.

With regard to content on internet including social websites like Facebook, You Tube, Department of Information Technology has informed that specific provisions have been made under sections 67, 67A, 67B and 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to deal with such cases. Punishments have been prescribed in terms of imprisonment & fine. Anyone affected can lodge a complaint with law enforcement authorities for necessary action. Further, intermediaries may also be approached to remove the content in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 made under section 79 of the Act.