

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2627
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
TELECAST OF TELEVISION SERIALS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many television serials based on black magic, hypocrisy and blind faith are being telecast on Doordarshan and private channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the telecast of such serials?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): In so far as Doordarshan Channels are concerned, Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan strictly follows the Broadcasting & Advertisement Code for production and telecast of programmes. As such, no programme containing black magic, hypocrisy and blind faith is telecast on Doordarshan.

As regards private channels all programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code and Advertising Code, respectively which are prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. Rule 6(1)(j) of the Programme Code specifically provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which encourages superstition or blind belief. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of programmes being telecast on private satellite TV channels. However, action is taken against the channels if violation of these codes is brought to the notice of this Ministry. This Ministry has set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) with a view to looking into specific complaints against programmes and advertisements telecast by TV channels in violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes. Self-regulatory bodies are also consulted. State level monitoring 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.

Ministry has also issued advisories on 29.11.2011 & 7.6.2013 cautioning TV channels to follow this provision of the Programme Code. The existing provisions and mechanism are considered adequate to regulate the content on TV channels.