

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4237  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014  
STING OPERATION  
Ganeshamurthi Shri A.

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

- (a) whether some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/electronic media/print media in some States (telecasting in all electronic media) are indulged in sting operation or instigating sting operation by misusing its money, freedom and privileges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban such sting operations and to take stringent action against those NGOs/ electronic media/print media; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): All the channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code provided for in the Cable Television Networks Rules 1994, which contains a gamut of criteria to be followed while carrying programmes including news and current affairs programmes in the private satellite/cable TV channels. The Press Council of India, a statutory autonomous body 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, has laid down "Guidelines on Sting Operations" in their "Norms of Journalistic Conduct". An extract of the same is placed at Annexure-I. Also, the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) which is an association of some News Broadcasters in electronic media, has laid down certain guiding principles for Sting Operation for its members in their 'Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards'. The relevant extract under para 9 of the same is placed at Annexure-II (A). Further, they have also issued 'Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage' on sting operation. The relevant portion is placed at Annexure -II (B). Also, a copy of the 'Guidelines for conducting Sting Operations' of NBA is placed at Annexure -II(C). Presently, there is no proposal under the consideration of Government to ban sting operation.