

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3631

ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014

SCREENING OF OBSCENITY SEXUALLY EXPLICIT AND INAPPROPRIATE CONTENTS

Panda Shri Baijayant;Patle Kamla Devi

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

(a) whether the screening of obscenity and sexually explicit and inappropriate contents have been on the rise in advertisements and other programmes in print and electronic media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of complaints received in this regard during the last three years and the current year and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the details of films whose dialogues aired on television channels have been muted/beeped, due to the instructions from the Government?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): 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 formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. The relevant norm 17 relating to 'Obscenity and Vulgarity' is annexed at Annexure-I. The PCI takes cognizance, suo motu or on complaints, of the contents in print media which are in violation of the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct'. The details of complaints against obscene content reported to PCI during each of the last three years and the current year along with the action taken thereon is annexed at Annexure-II

In so far as private satellite TV Channels are concerned there is no provision for pre-censorship of content telecast on such TV channels. However, all such TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. Action is taken whenever any violation of the code is brought to the notice of the Ministry. The said Rules provide for a whole range of parameters to regulate programme and advertisements on TV channels including those containing obscenity and sexually explicit and inappropriate content. Details of action taken by the Government against the channels for violation of the said codes during the last three years and the current year are annexed at Annexure-III.

(d): Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies film for theatrical release as well as TV channels in accordance with the 'Principles for guidance in certifying films'; under section 5B of Cinematograph Act, 1952 & Cinematograph (Certification) Rules made thereunder and issues certificates namely 'U', 'U/A', 'A' or 'S' as applicable. At the time of certification of films, appropriate committee of CBFC (Examining or Revision committee), may suggest muting/beeping of certain words which are inappropriate for that category of certification. No specific instruction has been issued in respect of any film so far.