

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7097
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2015
FOREIGN NEWS CHANNEL
Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of number of foreign news channels repeatedly violating and showing wrong maps of India around the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any committee or system to scrutinize the broadcasting contents of the news and programmes of the foreign channels in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (e) the further steps taken by the Government to secure the national interest in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) to (e): Content telecast on private satellite TV channels is regulated in accordance with the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. There is no provision for pre-censorship of the content telecast on such TV channels. However, all programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the said Act and the Rules. Specific provision exists in the program code in this regard wherein Rule 6(1)(h) provides that "no programme can be transmitted/ re-transmitted on any Cable Service, which contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation".

The Ministry has constituted a composite Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) comprising of officers drawn from various Ministries including a representative from the Advertising Standards Council of India, to look into the violations *sou-motu* or whenever violation of the Programme and Advertising Code is brought to the notice of this Ministry in respect of private satellite TV channels. IMC meets periodically and recommends action in respect of violations.

Besides, Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content of private television channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes.

Ministry takes action in such matters in consultation with Survey General of India (SGI) if violation of the code is brought to its notice. Accordingly, this Ministry has taken action as given in Annexure.

The existing provisions contained in the Programme and Advertising Codes are considered adequate in this regard.