

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4909
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
NBSA GUIDELINES TO TV CHANNELS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether News Broadcasting Standards Association (NBSA) has issued guidelines to TV channels on reporting sexual assault cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also issued any guidelines to news channels and print media in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken to ensure that maximum sensitivity is exercised while reporting sexual assault cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) The News Broadcasting Standards Authority has issued guidelines on 07-01-2013 on reporting of the cases of sexual assault. A copy of the guidelines of NBSA is placed at Annexure and also available at www.nbanewdelhi.com/latest-releases-of-nba.asp.

(c) & (d) In the wake of the tragic incident involving the death of a young girl who became the victim of gang-rape in Delhi, two advisories dated 23-12-2012 and 29-12-2012 were issued by this Ministry to all private satellite News Television channels asking them to exercise due sensitivity and responsibility in reporting of such cases. Copies of these advisories are placed at www.mib.nic.in.

All programmes telecast by private satellite/cable television channels are regulated under the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. All TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code provided for in the Cable Television Networks Rules 1994, which lays down a gamut of criteria for programmes including news and current affairs programmes carried in the private TV channels. Action is taken as per rules whenever any violation of Code is brought to the notice of the Government.

In so far as print media is concerned, the Government does not interfere in functioning of the press in pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the press. However, 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 the country and also to inculcate the principles of self-regulation among the press. In furtherance of its objective, the PCI has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. These norms cover principles and ethics of journalism and also the guidelines for news reporting on various specific issues. The Norm 6

(ii) titled Caution against Identification mentions that while reporting crime involving rape, abduction or kidnap of women/females or sexual assault on children, or raising doubts and questions touching the chastity, personal character and privacy of women, the names, photographs of the victims or other particulars leading to their identity shall not be published.

The Council monitors and takes cognizance, suo-motu or on complaints, of contents in print media which prima facie, are violative of Norms of Journalistic Conduct framed by PCI. The council may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist.