

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2744
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/12/2021**

NORMS OF JOURNALISTIC CONDUCT

2744. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of parallel media trials being carried out by some media sections in sub judice cases and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has rolled out any law to restrict such media trials and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Government would consider to bring new rules to restrain media trials once law enforcement agencies begin investigation;
- (d) whether any directions/guidelines have been issued with regard to the media coverage of cases under enquiry/investigation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Press Council of India has framed the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which *inter alia* have guidelines specifically on 'Trial by Media' and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG
SINGH THAKUR)**

(a) to (d): All programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks Act, 1995 and the rules framed there under.

The Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay in the matters of PIL (ST) No.92252 of 2020 with IA No.95156 of 2020, PIL (ST) No.1774 of 2020, Civil PIL-CJ-LD-VC No.40 of 2020, PIL (L) No.3145 of 2020 and Criminal PIL (51) No.2339 of 2020 has issued directions with respect to the media coverage of cases under enquiry/ investigation vide order date 18.01.2021 which have been conveyed to the broadcasters.

(e): The Press Council of India (PCI) has framed the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which inter-alia have guidelines specifically on 'Trial by Media'.

The Council has also issued Media advisory on 28.08.2020 to adhere to the Norms of journalistic conduct in covering cases under investigation. Advisory was also issued by PCI on 29.01.2021 in terms of Bombay High Court order dated 18-01-2021.
