

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1293
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006
RELIGIOUS CHANNELS
Mollah Shri Hannan

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the growth of religious channels where preachers and lecturers speaking out on such TV channels triggers about religious peace in a multi-cultural society like India and carry the potential to spark religious unrest in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to stop these preaching which is a threat to national integration?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b) Programmes of all satellite television channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the cable network services, are required to adhere to Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code inter alia prescribes that no programme can be carried in the cable service which contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes, programmes that are likely to encourage or incite violence or contain anything against maintenance of law & order should not be carried and also prohibits carriage of any programmes that contain anything affecting the integrity of the nation. Any violation of these codes attracts action under section 19 and Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The uplinking guidelines and downlinking guidelines, which regulate the satellite TV channels also prescribe adherence to the Programme & Advertising code.