

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:210  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006  
SHOWCAUSE NOTICES TO TV CHANNELS .  
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has issued showcause notices to television channels for violation of programmes and advertising codes as reported in Hindustan Times dated June 20, 2006;
- (b) if so, the number of notices issued during the last three years, till-date;
- (c) whether the Union Government has directed the State Governments to constitute monitoring committees to monitor private satellite channels and local cable channels and look into violation of the programmes and advertising code;
- (d) if so, the name of the States who have constituted such committees; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to regulate broadcast content of the services?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 210 FOR ANSWER ON 7.8.2006

(a) & (b): During the period 2004-06 (till date), the Government have issued 195 show cause notices to different television channels for violation of Programme and Advertising Codes as opposed to 150 reported in Hindustan Times dated June 20, 2006.

(c): Yes, Sir. Orders for setting up of monitoring committees for private television channels at the State and District levels was issued on 6th September 2005 to take cognizance suo-motu or look into the specific complaints regarding violations of the Programme Code and Advertising Code, as defined in Rule 6 and 7 of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994. (Copy annexed)

(d): So far 14 States and 1 Union Territory have reported constitution of monitoring committees. The details are as under :

S.No. Name of the State/UT No. of District level monitoring committees

1. Andhra Pradesh 1
2. Assam 1
3. Bihar 1
4. Bengal 1
5. Gujarat 4
6. Haryana 1
7. Himachal Pradesh 2
8. Jammu & Kashmir 2
9. Kerala 1
10. Lakshyadweep 1
11. Madhya Pradesh 44
12. Meghalaya 1
13. Punjab 2
14. Rajasthan 3
15. Uttar Pradesh 1

(e): The Central Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violation of the Programme Code and Advertising Code. The Committee either suo-motu or on receipt of complaint, examines cases of violation of the Code and recommends action to be taken by the Government. Show cause

notices are issued in the first instance to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programmes / advertisements in violation of the Codes. Further action is taken as per rules. Developing a new Content Code for self-regulation in consultation with the media/industry is in the process. Government is considering a proposal to set up a Broadcasting Services Regulator through a suitable legislation, who will also regulate content on TV channels.

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN PART (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 210 FOR ANSWER ON 07.08.2006

2301/7/2003-BC-III  
Government of India  
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Broadcasting (BC) Wing  
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Dated : 6th September, 2005  
ORDER

Subject : Monitoring Committee for Private Television Channels at the State and District Levels.  
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WHEREAS as per the Section 2 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the District Magistrate or a Sub-Divisional Magistrate or a Commissioner of Police is designated as "authorized officer" within his local limits of jurisdiction by State or Central Government. An whereas as per Section 11 and 12 of aforesaid Cable Act, the authorized officer has the power to seize and confiscate the equipment of the cable operator for violation of Section 5 and 6 of the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, i.e., violation of Programme Code and Advertisement Code prescribed under Rule 6 and Rule 7 of the Cable Television Network Rules'94 respectively. And whereas, it has been noticed that enforcement of said act in many parts of the country is not satisfactory either due to lack of knowledge or mechanism to enforce the same. And whereas it was unanimously agreed in the 25th State Information Ministers Conference (SIMCON) held on 16th April 2005 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi that an enforcement mechanism needs to be constituted to enforce the provisions of Cable Television Network Regulations, 1994.

Now, therefore, it has been decided to constitute a "Monitoring Committee for the Programmes and Advertisements telecast by Cable TV Channels" at the State, District / local level to enforce the Cable Act & Rules. In pursuance of the decision, a Committee with the following as members is hereby constituted:

- i) District Magistrate (or Police Commissioner) - Chairman
- ii) District Superintend of Police - Member
- iii) District Public Relations Officer - Member
- iv) Principal of one of the Women's College,  
in the district (to be selected by the DM) - Member
- v) Representative of a leading NGO working  
for children welfare (to be nominated by the DM) - Member
- vi) Representative of a leading NGO working  
for women welfare (to be nominated by the DM) - Member
- vii) Academicians / Psychologists / Sociologists  
(one each to be nominated by DM) - Member

For cities where Police Commissioner is appointed, he shall be the Chairman of the Committee. In addition, Director, Information & Publicity of the State Government or his nominee shall be a member of the Committee. All other members shall be nominated by the Police Commissioner under various categories listed above.

The nominated members shall have a term of two years. They shall not be eligible for re-nomination. Any vacancy can be filled up by nominating a new member for a fresh term.

NOW THEREFORE, this Monitoring Committee will review and deliberate on the litany of complaints

received by "Authorized officer" or take suo-moto cognisance of violations of Programme and Advertisement Codes in the programmes transmitted and re-transmitted in the local cable channels. The Committee will take a decision on the matters referred to it in accordance with the opinion of the majority of the members present at the meeting. The Committee will determine whether a violation of the Codes has taken place and render advice on the further action to be taken in the matter to the 'Authorised Officer'.

FURTHER, the Committee will forward complaints against satellite channels (National channels) to the Additional Secretary, Ministry of information & Broadcasting, Government of India, who is the chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted under Section 20 of the Cable Act to look into the violations of Programme and Advertisement Codes.

In respect of content related issues telecast on local cable channels or on satellite TV channels which have local implications, Authorised Officer will take action as per Section 19 of the aforesaid Cable Act. However, content related issues telecast on satellite channels, which have all India implications the necessary action will be taken by Central Government.

Hindi version of this Order will follow.

- Sd -  
(Seema Jere Bisht)  
Director (BC)  
Tel : 23381592

To

1. All Chief Secretaries of the State Governments/Union Territories
2. All District Magistrates

Copy to : Director (BP&L) for information and record.