

(d) if so, the details of the parameters set by Government to grant permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) As on date, Government has permitted 454 private satellite TV channels to downlink in India.

(c) and (d) The permissions to uplink TV channels from India and downlink TV channels in India are given as per uplinking and downlinking guidelines, respectively under which there is no provision for the channels to take separate permission to telecast their programmes. However, all programmes of satellite TV channels transmitted or re-transmitted through cable service are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme/Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

Setting up of new FM radio stations

†2475. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up more new FM radio stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for delay in commissioning of a proposed FM radio station at Darjeeling; and
- (d) by when construction of FM radio station at Darjeeling is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 193 new All India Radio (AIR) FM Stations are under implementation. As regards private FM, the policy for FM Phase-III is under consideration for extension of FM Radio services through private agencies in other parts of the country. The details are yet to be finalized.

(c) The reasons for delay in commissioning of AIR FM radio station at Darjeeling are:

- (i) Dispute with the landowner of adjacent plots.
- (ii) Non-availability of approach road for commencing the construction work.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the demarcation of site has now been done & approach road has been provided. Permanent security fencing has been made. Works of technical building and 100 meter tower have been started. Action for procurement of equipment has also been initiated.

Telecast of unhealthy news

†2476. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether telecast of news of castes, religion and sectarian violence and riots by TV channels foments enmity and hatred between various sections of society in the country;

(b) whether repeated telecast of revolting incidents of crimes like murder, rape, sexual exploitation on various news channels and later their telecast in the form of programmes adversely affects the minds of youth and teenagers;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to put in place any mechanism like censor to regulate the programmes of such news channels polluting the social climate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) No such formal study has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) to (e) All the private TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks(Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. This Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee to look into specific complaints or to take *suo-motu* cognizance against the violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes. Action is taken as per the provisions of the Cable Act whenever any specific violation is found. The Government has also constituted a Committee for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes to provide greater specificity to it, The Committee has submitted its report which is available for wider public consultation on the website of this Ministry www.mib.gov.in under the heading 'Code and Guidelines' sub-heading 'Self-Regulation Guidelines 2008'. So far as programmes telecast on TV channels is concerned, there is no pre-censorship of the programmes.

Telecast of vulgar advertisements

†2477. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecast of vulgar advertisements like that of condom on various TV channels is casting adverse effect on children;

(b) whether Government is considering to enact any law to ban such vulgar advertisements;

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check display of vulgarity in movies on television; and

(e) whether Government is formulating rules or is enacting any law against the channels making cock and bull stories to defame or blackmail eminent people, and later on get away with unpardonable offence by tendering apology?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.