

### Curb on polluted broadcasts and publications

†1137. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that misusing the freedom of speech, broadcasts and publications polluting the civilization, culture, traditions and values of the country are being aired through media published in the country;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether Government is contemplating bringing a bill to curb such polluted broadcasts and publications; and
- (d) if so, when this suggestion has emerged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) There is no study conducted by the Government on this aspect.

(c) and (d) Government follows a policy of non-interference in the functioning of Press. However in pursuance to its policy to uphold the freedom of the press, and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and to inculcate the principles of self regulation among the press, the Press Council of India (PCI), an autonomous body, was set up under the Press Council Act, 1978. The Press Council of India in furtherance of its object has been mandated to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies & journalists in accordance with high professional standard. Accordingly, they have formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct'.

In so far as electronic media is concerned, all the Private TV Channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code and the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Whenever any violation of these codes is found, action is taken as per rules.

This Ministry had constituted a Review Committee for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Committee had submitted its report to the Government in the form of Self-Regulation Guidelines. The matter will be taken up for finalization after the widest possible consultation with all the stakeholders. The Government has recently set up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) for holding wider consultation with stakeholders to arrive at a consensus regarding proposed amendments to the provisions of the draft content code.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.