

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a committee to screen broadcast content before it is telecast on TV Channels, as there is no provision of pre-censorship of content telecast on Television Channels. The content telecast on television is governed by the Programme and Advertisement Codes provided in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Priority to political parties in news bulletin

‡2328. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecast of news of regional parties are accorded less priority in the news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan and All India Radio and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the time allocated to the news of national parties and to that of regional parties during the last six months on Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(c) the reasons for not making the base of average of the number of representatives of regional parties in the Parliament in broadcasting their news; and

(d) whether Government has issued any guidelines with regard to telecast of news related to regional parties and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that selection of news and broadcast/telecast of items is strictly based on the intrinsic value of the news item and the news fall of the day. In National News, priority is given to National Parties and their coverage, while in the regional news broadcast, priority is given to news related to regional political parties. However, National News also carries important news items of Regional Parties based on their news value and news fall of the day from time to time.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the broadcast/telecast of news is based on the Broadcast Code. However, during elections, guidelines issued by Election Commission of India on political broadcast are followed both at headquarters and at regional levels. As per the Code, political

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

activities are covered strictly on the basis of news value. In political reporting, it is ensured that there is no bias in favour of any party. Accuracy and impartiality is maintained.

Telecast of Doordarshan news and other Doordarshan Channels

2329. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the cable operators in the capital are not showing Doordarshan news/other Doordarshan channels on their cable and openly violating the norms and guidelines of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether M/s. Ranga Cable Network at R.K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi is deliberately not showing Doordarshan news etc., to its customers and if so, the penal action Government proposes to take against this particular cable operator who is violating the mandatory norms of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) Neither the Ministry nor the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has received any specific complaint alleging that most cable operators in the capital are not showing DD News and other DD channels in their cable service. TRAI has also informed that no reference/complaint against M/s. Ranga Cable Network, R. K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi has been received. Therefore, no cause for action arises against M/s. Ranga Cable Network, R. K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi.

The Government has been receiving complaints from time to time about non- carriage of notified DD channels including DD News from various parts of the country including Delhi. The Government has been issuing advisories/ instructions to State Governments seeking enforcement of provisions of Cable TV Act especially Section 8 of the Act and the authorized officers (DM, SDM, Commissioner of Police) are responsible for enforcement of provisions of the Act and they are empowered under the Act to seize & confiscate the equipment of erring cable operators and also make complaint before the competent court. Therefore complaints received from cable subscribers for non transmission of DD channels are forwarded to concerned authorized officers for taking action against the cable operators as per the provisions of the Act.