

and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *inter alia*, prohibits programmes which offend against good taste or decency and prescribes that:

- > Care should be taken to ensure that programmes meant for children do not contain any bad language or explicit scenes of violence.
- > Programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing.

Advertising Code prescribes that advertisement which:

- > endangers the safety of children or creates in them any interest in unhealthy practices or shows them begging or in an undignified or indecent manner shall not be carried in the cable service.
- > Indecent, vulgar, suggestive, repulsive or offensive themes or treatment shall be avoided in all advertisements.

(b) Government has no proposal to launch any such cable network. Doordarshan, the public service broadcaster, already telecasts number of programmes suitable for viewing by all, including children.

(c) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Violence and crimes in films and serials

† 4115. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the films and serials being made at present are encouraging violence and sex which is adversely affecting the young generation and crimes and being encouraged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of films and serials encouraging violence and sex produced during the last three years, year-wise; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(d) the steps taken by Government to check violence and sex in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government does not maintain records of number of films and serials telecast by TV channels. However, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) which certifies films but not serials, for public exhibition has informed that number of films certified as suitable for adults only in the last three years is as follows:

2002 — 497

2003 — 510

2004 — 522

(d) In order to prevent the adverse effect of TV content and films on general public and children in particular, suitable guidelines have been laid down under the Cinematograph Act 1952 and the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 prescribes that programmes transmitted/ retransmitted through cable network, adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994. The Programme Code *inter alia* prohibits telecast of programmes which:

- > Offends good taste or decency;
- > Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes;

and provides that:

- > Care should be taken to ensure that programmes meant for children do not contain any bad language or explicit scenes of violence.
- > Programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing.

Action is taken from time to time against channels for violation of the Code. The Government is contemplating to set up an autonomous Regulatory Authority to regulate content of TV channels.