

- (v) Industry should pay a certain percentage of their relevant turnovers to BARC on an annual basis to fund the expansion of sample size;
- (vi) There should be transparency in the selection of rating agency;
- (vii) There should not be any cross-holding between the rating agencies and the broadcasters, advertisers and the advertising agencies to avoid conflict of interest;
- (viii) The TRP measurement process should consist of four stages and each one of these stages should be separately commissioned to distinct agencies to achieve unbiased and reliable results;
- (ix) The guidelines set out in the TRAI Report of 2008 on the key eligibility conditions of rating agencies should be followed.

As the recommendations of the Committee are to be acted upon by the Industry, the report was sent to the Indian Broadcasting Foundation for appropriate action. The Broadcast Audience Research Council has commenced preparatory activity for the purpose and is likely to start publishing rating reports by July, 2013.

Defamation case against Times Now

2070. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that an International voice has joined the chorus of Indian media associations criticising the award of Rs. 100 crores in damages against Times Now in a defamation case;
- (b) if so, the reaction off the Ministry thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that an award of damages of this magnitude will have a chilling effect on the operations of the media in the country; and
- (d) whether Government is considering a cap on damages awarded for defamation, as per the global trend in democratic countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (d) The issue arises out of a legal process and a judicial pronouncement made by a court of Law. In view of this, the matter falls outside the purview of the Government.