Control room for monitoring digitisation of cable TV networks

376. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government proposes to set up control room to monitor digitisation of cable TV network in the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the objectives for setting up of such control room;

(c)   whether Government has taken any steps to bring awareness among the people about the said control room;

(d)   if so, the details in this regard; and

(e)   the number of persons, so far, assisted by the said control room since its inception and extent to which their requests have been readdressed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (e) As part of implementation of Digital Addressable System (DAS) Phase-I which ended on 31.10.2012, the Ministry set up a Control Room with Toll Free Telephone Number 1-800-180-4343 in the office premises of the Ministry. During intensive awareness campaign, the Toll Free Number was publicized. This Control Room functioned on all days from 15th October, 2012 to 9th November, 2012 in two shifts from 8.00 AM to 10.00 PM.

The objective of setting up of the Control Room was to provide clarifications to the people and answer their queries relating to acquisition of Set Top Boxes, various schemes regarding purchase of Set Top Boxes and package rates offered by Multi System Operators etc. Besides representatives of the Ministry, Control Room was assisted by representatives of 5 National level Multi System Operators *viz.* DEN Network, In Cable, Hathway, Digi Cable, and Siti Cable. Around 5000 calls were received from the consumers which were addressed adequately.

Telecasting decent programmes

†377. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a)   whether Government have taken or propose to take any concrete steps regarding telecast of programmes on TV channels within the limits of decency; and

(b)   if so, the details thereof, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) The telecast of programmes by private satellite/cable television channels is regulated by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of the programmes telecast by such TV channels. However, it provides that all programmes telecast by these TV channels should be in accordance with the Programme Code, which has been laid down in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. The said Programme Code is applicable to all private satellite/cable television channels including news channels.

The Programme Code lays down a whole range of principles that are required to be strictly followed by these TV channels. Whenever any instance of telecast of programmes including news programmes by private satellite/cable TV channels is noticed, appropriate action as per the said Act is taken. The Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific complaints or suo motu take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes and action is taken as per the said Act and Rules framed thereunder, if any violation is established.

The Indian Broadcasting Foundation and News Broadcasters Association, the respective representative bodies of certain private broadcasters of non-news and news satellite TV channels, have also set up self-regulatory mechanisms to consider content-related complaints received against their member channels.

Emoluments of casual assignees

378. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that casual assignees employed in Regional Units of News Service Division of All India Radio in Delhi are paid only Rs. 340/- per duty;

(b)   whether Government is of the view that it is sufficient in the era of sky rocketing prices of essential commodities; and