

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that the voice quality and pronunciation of Hindi News Readers are regularly monitored. They are advised from time to time about mistakes, if any, in their reading. Regular circulars/advisories related to pronunciation of names of places, persons etc in different languages are issued from time to time. Workshops are also conducted to improve their reading skills.

Monitoring of baseless and provocative news reports

387. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of baseless and provocative news reports published/telecast through the print and the electronic media in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any policy prescription to contain such menace;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when such policy is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the other corrective measures taken/likely to be taken by Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (e) In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the press, the Government does not interfere in functioning of the press. However, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country and also to inculcate the principles of self regulation among the press. In furtherance of its objective, the PCI has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. Under the Norm 1 titled 'Accuracy and Fairness' it has been mentioned that the Press shall eschew publication of inaccurate, baseless and misleading material. In this respect PCI has registered 532 complaints on charges of baseless and provocative news reports published in print media since April 1, 2012.

The Press Council of India monitors and takes cognizance, *suo motu* or on complaints, of contents in print media which *prima facie*, are violative of Norms of

Journalistic Conduct. The Council may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist.

So far as private satellite TV channels are concerned, there is no provision for pre-censorship of the content telecast on such channels. However, all programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the cable TV networks, are required to adhere to the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Action is taken against the defaulting channels by the Government whenever any violation of the aforementioned codes is brought to the notice of the Government regarding any specific programme.

Further, as part of self-regulating Complaints Redressal mechanism, News Broadcasters Association (NBA) - a representative body of news and current affairs channels - has set up News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to consider complaints against or in respect of broadcasters in so far as these relate to the content of any broadcast. The NBSA is headed by a retired Chief Justice of India. Similarly, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), which is a representative body of non-news & current affairs TV channels, has set up Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) to examine the complaints about television programmes. The BCCC is headed by a retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The complaints can be sent directly to BCCC and NBSA about the television programmes for appropriate action by them.

Cases pending in metrocities

388. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the number of cases related to divorce, suicide, road accidents, murder and robbery pending in the metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): No data giving classification of pending court cases in metro-cities is maintained centrally. However, based on the information available with National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), number of suicide and accidental death cases in metro-cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad and murder and robbery cases in Union Territory of Delhi during 2011 are given in the Statement.