

best efforts of the doctors to save her life, may lead to public manifestation of grief and emotions which may have implications for public order.

In such circumstances, therefore, it is the fundamental responsibility and duty of all concerned to help the cause of public order. The media is best placed to play this important role by reporting and discussing the news emerging out of this tragic incident in a dignified, responsible and matured manner, exercising utmost care and restraint.

Attention is drawn to Rule 6(1)(e) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, which requires that the Programme Code be strictly adhered to by all private satellite television channels. It provides “no programme should be carried in the cable service which is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains : anything against maintenance of law and *order* or which promotes anti-national attitudes.”

All the private satellite TV channels are accordingly advised to telecast the news on this issue in a manner that does not sensationalise or seem provocative and that the entire portrayal is carried with a sense of dignity, responsibility, maturity, sensitivity and due restraint keeping the larger interest of public order in mind.

(Supriya Sahu)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

To,

All Private Satellite News Television Channels

Media reporting of rape and sexual assault

696. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE :

SHRI N.K. SINGH :

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

(a) The details of regulations regarding media reporting of incidences of rape and sexual assault and the protection of identity of victims;

(b) whether there is any provision for penalty for violation of the regulations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) to (c) For the electronic media,

there is no provision for pre-censorship of the content telecast on private satellite TV channels. All Private TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder.

Rule 6 of the Cable Television Networks Rule, 1994 under clause (k) has the provision as under: “No programme should be carried in the cable service which:—

Denigrates women through the depiction in any manner of the figure of a woman, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to women, or is likely to deprave corrupt or injure the public morality or morals”.

As far as punitive provisions are concerned, Chapter IV of Cable Television Networks Act, 1995 deals with the penalty provisions against the violation of the Cable Act/Rules. In addition, as part of the self-regulation process, News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has set up News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to consider content-related complaints of news channels. NBSA has issued ‘Guidelines on Reportage of Cases of Sexual Assault’ on 7-01 -2013. A copy is given in Statement. (Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to U.S.Q. No. 695 Part (a) and (b)).

As far as the ‘Prasar Bharti’ is concerned, being a public broadcaster, it adheres to the Norms that govern the standards of public broadcasting in the country.

In so far as the print media is concerned, in pursuance of Government’s policy to uphold the freedom of press. Press Council of India (PCI) a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 with the twin objective to preserve the freedom of press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspaper and news agencies in India and also to inculcate the principles of self regulation.

Accordingly, PCI has framed Norms of Journalistic Conduct under Section 13(2)(b) of the Press Council Act, 1978 which cover principles and ethics of journalism, for adherence by the media. Norms 6 (ii) of Norms of Journalistic Conduct (Edition, 2010) prescribes guidelines for ‘Right to Privacy which includes and protection of identity of victims. A copy of the same is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The complaints of content in print media, which are violative of Norms of Journalistic Conduct’ are received and adjudicated by the Press Council of India under Section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978. The Council can warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist concerned.

Statement*Details of Extracts of Norms of Journalistic Conduct***6. Right to Privacy:—**

- (i) The Press shall not intrude or invade the privacy of an individual, unless outweighed by genuine overriding public interest, net being a prurient or morbid curiosity. So, however, that once a matter becomes a matter of public record, the right to privacy no longer subsists and it becomes a legitimate subject for comment by the Press and the media, among others. Special caution is essential in reports likely to stigmatise women. Explanation: Things concerning a person's home, family, religion, health, sexuality, personal life and private affairs are covered by the concept of PRIVACY excepting where any of these impinges upon the public or public interest.
- (ii) Caution against Identification: While reporting crime involving rape, abduction or kidnap of women/females or sexual assault on children, or raising doubts and questions touching the chastity, personal character and privacy of women, the names, photographs of the victims or other particulars leading to their identity shall not be published.
- (iii) Minor children and infants who are the offspring of sexual abuse or 'forcible marriage' or illicit sexual union shall not be identified or photographed.
- (iv) Intrusion through photography into moments of personal grief shall be avoided. However, photography of victims of accidents or natural calamity may be in larger public interest.

Clearance system for permission to film makers

697. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR :

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

- (a) what actions are being taken by the Ministry to introduce a single-window clearance system for granting permission to foreign/local film makers for film shoots in the country;
- (b) whether the Ministry is also looking at incentive packages in terms of tax exemptions; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?