

under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affects minors and is unlawful in any way.

Moreover, section 69A of IT Act, 2000 provides for blocking access to information under specific conditions.

Viewership of DD News channels

3294. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether DD channels enjoy fairly low rating in contents and overall presentation despite high viewership in comparison to private news channels;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this state of affairs even though Doordarshan enjoys full support of Government; and

(c) what major plans Government has, to improve its overall performance and popularity as one of the best in the country so as to attract advertisements and earn revenue to meet operational cost rather than depending upon funding from Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the comparison of DD News Channel with private news channels is difficult as unlike private news channels, DD News is a multilingual channel. Nevertheless, as per the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) data during the week 42 to 45 (17th October, 2016 to 13th November, 2016) DD News obtained top viewership position among all English News bulletins.

(c) Improving overall performance and popularity of DD News Channel is a continuous process. Presentation/formatting of contents of various news bulletins and news based programmes is also reviewed from time to time in order to orient them as per viewers choice. The new elements have been introduced like "Khabar Jaldi Jaldi" and "5 Minutes 15 Khabrain" both in English and Hindi which has a wide viewership.

Educational channels for higher education

3295. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of students would not be able to watch educational channels as the DTH service providers have asked the Government for money to air these channels, if so, the details thereof;