

(b) Review of policy on various issues including advertisements is a dynamic process that is undertaken as per requirement.

**RN unit of DD News in Uttarakhand**

†92. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need to establish RN unit of DD News in Uttarakhand;
- (b) whether the public representatives of the State have also requested the Ministry and Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the reasons for which the unit has not been set up, so far, in the State; and
- (d) the further time likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that a proposal to establish RNU (Regional News Unit) of DD News in Uttarakhand has been approved by them.

(b) to (d) No such request from public representatives of the State has been received.

**Objectionable contents on TV channels**

93. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is receiving a large number of complaints from audience against several TV channels and radio stations regarding their alleged objectionable contents;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for protecting the interests and basic rights of audience in the country; and
- (c) whether Government is considering to set up a statutory mechanism for redressal of complaints against the contents of private TV channels and radio stations and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) Complaints are received directly and also through the public grievance portal *i.e* <http://pgportal.gov.in> relating to the content telecast on private TV channels. As per existing regulatory framework, private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 framed thereunder which contain a gamut of criteria to be followed while carrying programmes and advertisements in such TV channels. FM Radio Channels are required to comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) which is executed by them with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at the time of granting permission to run FM radio channels. Clause 7.6 of the GOPA provides that the permission holder shall ensure that no content, messages, advertisement or communication, transmitted in its Broadcast Channel is objectionable, obscene, unauthorized or inconsistent with the laws of India. It is also prescribed under Clause 11.2 of the GOPA that FM Radio Channels should follow the same programme and Advertisement Codes as followed by All India Radio (AIR). These Codes and GOPA contain a whole range of parameters to regulate content on FM channels.

Ministry has also constituted a composite Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 comprising officers from Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law and Justice, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs and a representative from Advertising Standards Council of India, to take cognizance *suo moto* or to look into specific complaints regarding content on private TV channels on any platform including FM Radio channels. As and when there is a *prima facie* case of violation by private satellite TV channels and private FM channels regarding content aired by them, the matter is placed before the IMC for its consideration/recommendations. Thus, IMC functions in a recommendatory capacity. The final decision is taken on the basis of the recommendations of IMC by the Ministry after which action is taken such as issuing warnings or advisories to the channels or asking them to run apology scrolls on their channels or directing the channels to be taken off air for a limited period depending on the gravity of the violation.

Apart from this, the Ministry has also issued directions to States to set up District level and State level Monitoring Committees to regulate content telecast of local TV channels carried on Cable Networks.

Thus, the Ministry exercises the statutory powers available through the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder to regulate the content carried by TV channels with regard to programmes and advertisements as per the provisions of Programme and Advertising Codes. Further, when the channels are granted permission to uplink/downlink a particular channel from or into India as per uplinking/downlinking Guidelines, they furnish an undertaking to comply with the Programme and Advertising Codes at all times. In case of violation of the codes, the Ministry takes action against the defaulting channels in terms of powers conferred by Section 20 of the Cable Act and Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines.

Recently, in a judgment delivered on 12.01.2017, with regard to WP No.1024 of 2013 in the case of Common Cause *Vs* UOI & Ors, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has advised the Government to formalize the complaint redressal mechanism including the period of limitation within which a complaint can be filed and the concerned statutory authority which shall adjudicate upon the same including the appellate and other redressal mechanisms, leading to a final conclusive determination.

#### **Losses to Doordarshan**

94. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any presentation/report on Prasar Bharati indicating the details of losses that Doordarshan was making;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and
- (c) the details of decision taken for improving the quality of Doordarshan programmes for generating more revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) No, the Government has not received any such report so far.

(c) Doordarshan is continuously making effort to improve the viewership of channels. As a Public Service Broadcaster, DD broadcasts programmes on various aspects of social development. All 23 Satellite channels of DD (which operate 24X7) continue to provide information and entertainment. DD has introduced a new Content Acquisition Scheme to bring fresh content in Prime time. Packaging of Shows and