

censorship of the content telecast on TV channels. As such, there is no agency to grant clearance, prior to telecast of programmes on TV channels.

**Derogatory programmes on television channels**

585. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several television channels are airing sponsored programmes containing vulgar and derogatory dialogues/remarks against women in the guise of comedy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is taking any action against these channels, whenever such instances are brought to their notice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE): (a) to (c) As per existing regulatory framework, all programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels and transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable TV network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of any programme and advertisement telecast on such TV channels. However, it prescribes that all programmes and advertisements telecast on such TV channels should be in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code and Advertising Code enshrined in the said Act and the rules framed thereunder, which contain a whole range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements including portrayal of women in a vulgar or indecent manner or contain derogatory dialogues/remarks against women.

The Ministry has set up Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content telecast on private TV channels with reference to the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also been set up in the Ministry to look into the specific complaints or *suo-motu* take cognizance against the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. The IMC has representatives from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Information & Broadcasting and a representative from the industry in Advertising Standards Authority of India

(ASCI). The IMC meets periodically and recommends action in respect of violation of Programme and Advertising Codes by private TV channels. 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 on cable TV channels.

Details of action taken on violation of Programme and Advertising Codes by private TV channels for telecast of content of indecency/obscenity/vulgarity in TV programmes and Advertisements in the last three years and the current year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Further, Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), a representative body of non-news & current affairs TV channels, has set up Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) to examine the complaints relating to content of television programmes. Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has informed that they have received complaints against usage of double meaning dialogues of sexual nature that might not be suitable for children. In such instances, BCCC has passed directions on case to case basis either asking the channels to modify/ edit the content, not to repeat the episode, shift it to a late night slot or run an apology scroll on the channel. To ensure that the channels do not cross the thin line between comedy and vulgarity, the Council has also issued an advisory on 27.12.2012 to IBF's member channels to use friendly banter without being derisive to any community, religion and individual.

### ***Statement***

*Details of action taken on violation of Programme and Advertisement code by private TV channels for telecast of content of indecency/obscenity/vulgarity in last three years and current year*

#### **Year - 2014**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Channel | Nature of violation   | Details of action taken  |
|---------|---------------------|---|--|
| 1       | 2                   | 3   | 4  |
| 1.      | WB                  | Telecast of a "V/UA" certified film "It's a Boy Girl Thing" showing obscene and women denigrating content | An order dated 16.01.2014 was issued for taking the channel off air for one day. |
| 2.      | Lemon News          | Telecast a news report, revealing the identity of the sexually  | A warning dated 10.03.2014 was issued to channel                                 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
|---|---|---|---|

abused women

|                 |  |   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 3. Amrita TV    | Telecast of 'A' Certified film, 'The Don'  | A warning dated 27.03.2014 was issued to channel            |
| 4. All channels | TV Channels continue Telecast Films without displaying CBFC Certificates.                            | An Advisory dated 29.05.2014 was issued to all TV Channels. |
| 5. Vasanth TV   | Telecast a programme called 'Vaimaye Vellum' revealed the identity of sexually abused minor children | A warning dated 27.08.2014 was issued to the channel        |

Year 2015

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
|---|---|---|---|

|                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 6. NTV              | Telecast a song-based programme 'Cine Colors'   | An order dated 19.01.2015 was issued to the channel for taking the channel off air for seven day                         |
| 7. NTV              | Telecast of news report revealed the identity of sexual harassment minor boy                                      | A Warning dated 23.03.2015 was issued to channel   |
| 8. Satlon News      | Telecast of News report about a private corporate party organised in a five star hotel on the Pune-Mumbai highway | An order was issued on 27.03.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for 30 day.  |
| 9. Jai Hind         | Telecast of 'A' certified film, titled 'Hai Harithe'  | An order was issued on 07.04.2015 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day. |
| 10. Russia Today TV | Telecast of obscene programme 'Crazy Alert'   | An Advisory dated 06.07.2015 was issued to the channel.  |

| 1                            | 2   | 3 | 4   |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 11. A2Z News TV              | The Channel telecast news reports on various date and revealed the identity of Sexually assaulted minor victims |   | A warning dated 07.08.2015 was issued to the channel.   |
| Year 2016                    |   |   |   |
| 12. Care World               | Telecast of a programme "Kya Karun Main AB?" on unnatural sex.  |   | A warning dated 24.05.2016 was issued to the channel.   |
| 13. F TV                     | Telecast of a programme namely fotos in alleged violation of the programme code                                 |   | An Advisory dated 25.05.2016 issued to the channel  |
| 14. CVR English News Channel | Telecast of News bulletins showing disturbing visuals of dead bodies  |   | An Advisory dated 25.05.2016 issued to the channel  |
| 15. Oscar Movies             | Telecast of 'A' certified films on various dates.   |   | An Advisory dated 06.06.2016 issued to the channel  |
| 16. Care World               | Telecast of obscene programme 'Kya Karu Main Aab'   |   | An order was issued on 02.11.2016 to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for seven days. |
| 17. News Time Assam          | Telecast of news report revealing the identity of minor boy   |   | An order dated 2.11.2016 was issued to the channel to prohibit the transmission or re-transmission of channel for one day   |
| News Time Assam              | Telecast of News bulletins showing disturbing visuals of dead bodies  |   | (to carry out the three awards of one day off air concurrently)   |
| News Time Assam              | Telecast of News story defaming the image of MLA and denigrating women.   |   |   |

| 1          | 2   | 3 | 4  |
|------------|---|---|--|
| 18. MBC TV | Telecast of news report revealing the identity of sexually assaulted victims. |   | A Warning dated 29.11.2016 issued to the channel |
| Year 2017  |   |   |  |
| Nil        |   |   |  |

#### Rating of newspapers under GST

586. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has made any proposal to the Ministry of Finance regarding zero rating of newspapers under new GST regime and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to protect small scale newspapers; and

(c) whether the Ministry has received representations from the print media industry asking for protection under the new tax regime and if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) This Ministry has not received any representation from the print media industry asking for protection under the new tax regime after notification of GST. Hence, no proposal has been made to the Ministry of Finance regarding zero rating of newspapers under new GST regime. However, the Government makes all efforts to protect the small newspapers. For example, small newspapers with circulation upto 25000 have been given exemption from obtaining minimum forty five marks under the marking system of the Print media Advertisement Policy of the Government of India - 2016 for empanelment with Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity for release of Government advertisement to such papers.