

Many commercial programmes shown by channels

†1996. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the channels are showing more commercials than programmes of news and serials;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the consumers pay for the channels to watch news and serials;

(c) if so, whether Government will issue any guidelines to those channels to show commercials as per Government rules; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) Advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to be in conformity with the Advertising Code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. Rule 7(11) thereof provides that “no programme shall carry advertisements exceeding twelve minutes per hour, which may include upto ten minutes per hour of commercial advertisements, and upto two minutes per hour of the channel’s self-promotional programmes”.

Further ‘Standards of Quality of Service (Duration of Advertisements in Television Channels) (Amendment) Regulations 2013’ issued by TRAI *inter alia* provides that “No broadcaster shall, in its broadcast of a programme, carry advertisements exceeding twelve minutes in a clock hour.”

Some broadcasters have approached the Hon’ble High Court, Delhi against the regulations of 2013. The matter is presently *sub-judice*.

Sexual harassment faced by women employees

1997. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that office bearers of Casual Announcers and Composers Union, have submitted a representation, alleging that its members were sexually harassed, while working at different radio stations in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Commission for women has also

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

raised the issue of arbitrary removal of women employees who complained about facing sexual harassment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof particularly with reference to the status of inquiry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A complaint was forwarded to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by National Commission for Women, in which the issue of arbitrary termination of women employees who complained about sexual harassment at AIR Stations was also raised. A report in the matter was called from Directorate General: All India Radio and examined in the Ministry. A detailed status note in the matter has been forwarded to National Commission for Women by the Ministry. Prasar Bharati has also separately submitted their findings to National Commission for Women. All the established procedures are being followed in this regard.

Illegal sand mining

1998. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of widespread illegal activities of sand mining in the country which have led to death of many law enforcement officials and other Government officials;

(b) if so, details of all deaths of law enforcement officials and other Government officials since 2014, year-wise; and

(c) details of measures that Government has taken to deal with the above issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Sand is a minor mineral, as defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Section 15 of the MMDR Act provides that State Governments have been empowered for making rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith.

Further, as per Section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 State Governments have complete powers to make rules for prevention of illegal mining and for purposes connected therewith. The administration of sand mining is a subject that is completely within the domain of the respective State Governments. Therefore, no data relating to attack/death of the Government officials/law enforcement official is maintained centrally.