

The release of such campaigns through various media is guided by policy guidelines for respective media which are available on the website of BOC www.davp.nic.in

Advertisements applauding achievements of candidate during elections

†3264. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent publication of advertisements applauding achievements of the candidate during elections comes under the category of paid news;

(b) whether Government proposes to amend Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 and Section 15 of the Press Council Act, 1978 to stop the practice of 'Paid News' and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to appoint Lokpal (Ombudsman) for the media organisations, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) During election, expenditure incurred on advertisement published by a candidate/ political party/it's agent is added into election expenditure account.

(b) The Press Council of India has recommended amendment to the Representation of People Act, 1951 in order to make the incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice. The Election Commission of India has also recommended for including 'Paid News' in the category of corrupt practices or electoral offences. Law Commission of India in its 255th report on 'Electoral Reform' has *inter alia* recommended ban on paid news.

(c) There is no proposal for having a separate Ombudsman for media organisations.

Content restriction on TV channels

3265. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) number of TV channels, including media outlets which have been issued warnings for airing content against Ministry guidelines for the last three years, year-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.