

(b) to (e) Content over internet, including Over The Top (OTT) Platforms are covered under the Information Technology Act, 2000. The said Act has various provisions relating to nature of content that is prohibited.

Complaints against news channels

101. SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints against news channels violating the broadcasting guidelines and broadcasting fake news, hate and divisive agenda, using slander during the last five years; if so, the details thereof;

(b) action taken by Government against news channels which have been violating the stipulated norms; and

(c) whether Government is planning to initiate any code of conduct or broad guidelines for the debates that happen on electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Content telecast on private satellite TV channels is regulated in terms of Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed there under.

(b) The Government has an institutional mechanism for taking action in respect of private TV channels which are found to violate the Programme and Advertisement Codes. Between 2015 and 2019, the Government has taken action in respect of 126 cases involving private TV channels, including news channels, by way of Advisories, Warning, Apology Scroll order and Off-Air order.

(c) The Government from time to time issues Advisories to private TV channels for compliance to the Programme Codes.

Guidelines for empanelment of social media

102. SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently released policy guidelines for the empanelment of social media platforms with the Bureau of Outreach and Communication;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to determine the terms of eligibility for such social media platforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) The Government has in May, 2020 formulated policy guidelines for the empanelment of social media platforms with Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) for release of Government Advertisements on social media, which *inter-alia* includes eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions. These guidelines are available on website of BOC, www.davp.nic.in.

New legislation to keep the Ganga pollution free

103. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to bring a new legislation to keep the Ganga, a holyriver, clean and pollution free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Namami Gange Programme launched by Government in June, 2014 could not protect Ganga from pollution; and

(d) if so, to what extent a new legislation will keep Ganga pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) A draft Bill, namely, the National River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Bill, 2019 is under consideration with the objective to take measures for protection, management and rejuvenation of river Ganga. The draft bill has several provisions for strengthening of institutional mechanism, provision for zonal plans, provision for imposition of graded penalties, fines and imprisonment depending on the severity of offence, creation of Ganga Protection Corps for general surveillance and prevention of pollution etc.

(c) No, Sir. Namami Gange is an integrated conservation and rejuvenation programme initiated by the Union Government in June, 2014 with twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of river Ganga.

Namami Gange Programme has been effective and successful in achieving the cleanliness and rejuvenation of river Ganga. The pace of implementation, execution and