

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022)

BANNING OF CHANNELS

1034. DR. V. SIVADASAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- a) the number of times the TV channels of India were prevented from broadcasting, issued temporary bans or restrictions, or had their licenses withdrawn, channel-wise and year-wise details for the last five years with reasons for the ban;
- b) the number of online news channels or websites banned, year-wise data with reasons for the ban; and;
- c) the mechanism to assess the culpability and impose penalties like withdrawal of licenses of the channels?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
{SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR}**

- (a) :** The year-wise details of prohibition of TV channels for noncompliance of the Policy Guidelines or the Programme and Advertisement Code under CTN Rules are as under:

Year	No of TV Channels (Temporarily withdrawn)	No of TV Channels (Withdrawn)
2018	1	23
2019	6	10
2020	7	12
2021	22	23
2022	5	6

- (b) :** The year-wise details of Prohibition of online news channels or websites including social media accounts/posts/apps/ websites of digital news publishers is as follows:

Year	No of online news channels Blocked	No of Websites Blocked
2018	—	—
2019	—	—
2020	—	—
2021	20	2
2022	84	23

- (c) : The Central Government has amended the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 on 17.06.2021 to provide for a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances/ complaints for violation of Programme Code and Advertising Code of the broadcast by Television channels. The Rules provide for a three-level complaint redressal mechanisms, Level I by the broadcasters, Level II by the self-regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and Level III by oversight mechanism of the Central Government.

In accordance with the provisions made under Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021, the Central Government has constituted an Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC), chaired by the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry Of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and representatives of such other Ministries and Organisations, including experts, as the Central Government may decide. The Inter Departmental Committee examines complaints or grievances received by it and makes any of the following recommendations to the Central Government, namely; -

- (i) advising, warning, censuring, admonishing or reprimanding such broadcaster; or
- (ii) requiring an apology of such broadcaster; or
- (iii) requiring such broadcaster to include a warning card or a disclaimer; or
- (iv) requiring such broadcaster to delete or modify content or take the channel or a programme off-air for a specified time period where it is satisfied that such action is warranted, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

The Central Government takes decisions based on the IDC recommendations. Thus, the Government has an institutional mechanism for taking action in respect of private satellite TV channels which are found to violate the Programme Code and Advertising Code.
