

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1037
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022**

CODE OF ETHICS AND BROADCASTING STANDARDS

1037. SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the increased instances of hate-mongering in news debates on TV news channels;
- (b) whether Government is considering codifying the existing Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to enact a law prohibiting hate speech in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): All programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code inter alia provides that no programme should be telecast which contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes; or which contain anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half-truths or which criticizes, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country.

It is further stated that the Central Government has also notified Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 on 17.06.2021 thereby establishing a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances/ complaints of citizens relating to violation of Programme and Advertising Codes. The Rules provide for a three level complaint redressal mechanisms, Level I by the broadcaster, Level II by the self regulating bodies of the broadcasters, and Level III by oversight mechanism of the Central Government.

The Government takes action in cases where Programme Code is found to be violated by the private TV channels, by way of issuance of Advisories, Warnings, Apology Scroll Orders, Off-air Orders etc.

The Ministry also issues Advisories from time to time to private satellite TV channels for adhering to the Programme Code.
