

(d) The annual expenditure incurred by the Government on the Institute as grants-in-aid under Plan and Non-Plan during the last three years is as under:

Grant-in-Aid (Rs. in lakhs)	
2000-2001	— 729.52
2001-2002	— 644.13
2002-2003	— 481.67

(e) The Governing Council of the Institute in its 99th meeting has decided in principle, to reintroduce the Acting Course. The Course is expected to be of 2 years' duration with an annual intake of 20 students.

Obscenity in commercial advertisements

3196. SHRI FAQIR CHAND MULLANA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that presently there is very much obscenity in commercial advertisements through television, newspapers and posters, etc.;

(b) whether there are any set norms in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and what are the punishments for violation; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to protect the society from this type of obscenity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Complaints/suggestions are received from time to time expressing concerns about the advertisements telecast on TV channels.

Doordarshan and All India Radio adhere to their Code for Commercial Advertising, which addresses these concerns. Advertisements on all satellite channels, transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable TV Network in the country are required to be adhere to the provisions of the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Advertising Code *inter alia* prohibits carriage of such advertisements in cable service, which offend morality or decency, project a derogatory image of woman, have indecent or vulgar themes.

Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violations of the Advertising Code. On the recommendations of the Committee, appropriate action is taken against Channels from time to time for violation of the provisions of the Code. Action for violation of the Code can also be taken by any authorized officer *i.e.* SDM, DM, Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the Official Gazette by the Central Government or State Governments.

Government does not interfere in the internal functioning of the Press. However, Press Council of India (PCI), a self-regulatory body for Press, has been established for the purposes of preserving the freedom of the Press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies and to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the Press. PCI has issued guidelines *viz.* Norms of Journalistic Conduct for newspapers and news agencies and journalists which, *inter alia*, deal with eschewing obscenity and vulgarity.

Production of Children Films

†3197. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether very few films on children are produced and shown in the National Film Festivals; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to encourage producers to produce more films on children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Films meant for children, catering as they do to a specific age group, have a limited market and tend to be produced in limited numbers. The Children's Film Society, India (CFSI), a registered society under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, on an average produces 7 feature films and 3 short films in a year. Films that win the National Film Awards are exhibited in the National Film Festival (NFF). The Best Children's Film is also shown in the NFF along with other award winning films.

(b) The Government provides grant-in-aid to CFSI for production, acquisition and exhibition of children's films. In order to develop children's cinema, CFSI has a separate Plan scheme under which proposals for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.