

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.

production of films are invited from film makers and the approved films are entirely financed by the Government. CFSI also organises a biennial International Film Festival for Children with the objective of promoting and encouraging the children's film movement by screening children's films from different countries. Films certified as children's films by the Central Board of Film Certification are frequently exempted from Entertainment Tax by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

New National Policy on Telecasting

3198. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any New National Policy on Telecasting in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has introduced the Communication Convergence Bill, 2001 in Parliament on 31-8-2001, with a view to promote, facilitate and develop in an orderly manner the carriage and content of communications (including broadcasting, telecommunications and multimedia).

Norms for nomination of Members of Censor Board

3199. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the norms which are being followed by Government for nomination of Members of Censor Board ;

(b) whether Government propose to nominate politician-cum-actors to be the Members of Censor Board for their respective region for effective functioning of Censor Board;

(c) is so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?