

No.804/161/2013-BC-III
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110001

Dated: 20th Sept., 2013

ADVISORY

Whereas it has come to the notice of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting that in the wake of recent Muzaffarnagar communal riots, some TV channels have been telecasting inflammatory and provocative news/programmes in a sensational manner. Some TV channels have also been airing footage, video, interviews, etc. of leaders of diverse spectrum which could vitiate the situation in the entire area. These could further ignite communal tension, violence and create law and order problem not only in the riot affected area but elsewhere.

Whereas a strong need is felt that TV channels should take all steps to avoid telecasting such inflammatory and sensitive material and should exercise maximum restraint and caution in reporting matters of this nature. News, views or comments relating to communal tension/clashes should be telecast only after proper verification of facts and presented with due caution and restraint in a manner which is in the public interest of maintaining communal harmony. No news/programme should be carried by TV channels, which is likely to foment disharmony or enmity between religious groups.

Whereas, as per Section 5 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 read with Rule 6(1) (c), & (e) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, as amended from time to time, no programme can be transmitted/re-transmitted on any Cable Service **which, inter-alia, promote communal attitudes; and is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes.**

Whereas, according to the basic conditions/obligations of permission/approval for Uplinking/Downlinking of TV Channels in India, the channels are bound to follow the Programme Code and Advertising Code as prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

Therefore, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in exercise of powers under Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines issued by it, the terms of permission granted to the Channel to uplink/downlink TV Channels and under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, hereby advises all TV Channels to follow the provisions of the Programme Code scrupulously and exercise restraint and sensitivity while reporting such incidents and refrain from telecasting any material which could ignite communal passions and create law and order problem.

It is also brought to the notice of all TV channels that any violation of the provisions of the Programme/Advertising Code would attract penal provisions stipulated in Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the terms and conditions of uplinking and downlinking guidelines.

Neeti
20/9/13
[NEETI SARKAR]
Director (BC)
Tele.23386536

To,

All News & Current Affairs TV channels

Copy to: Shri K.V.L. Narayanrao, President, News Broadcasters Association, ME-5, Sah Vikas Apartments, 68, Patparganj, Delhi - 110092