

No. N-28011/02/2021-BC-III
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
'A' WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN,
NEW DELHI - 110001

Date: 14th July, 2021

ORDER

Section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") empowers the Central Government to frame rules to carry out the provisions of the Act. Section 20 of the Act further empowers the Central Government to regulate or prohibit the transmission or retransmission of any programme or channel, by an order, if it is not in conformity with the Programme/ Advertising Code referred to in the Act.

2. The Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 framed under the said Act have been amended vide GSR(E) dated 17.06.2021. Sub-rule (ii) of rule 19 of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 empowers the Central Government to establish an Inter-Departmental Committee for hearing grievances or complaints. The Rules provide, inter-alia, that in order to ensure observance and adherence to the Programme Code and the Advertising Code by the broadcaster and to address the grievance or complaint, if any, relating thereto, there shall be a three-level structure (complaint redressal structure) as under: Level I - A self-regulation by broadcasters; Level II - Self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the broadcasters; and Level III - Oversight mechanism by the Central Government.

3. Accordingly, in supersession of orders bearing No.2301/7/2003-BC-III dated 25.04.2005 and No.3101/1/2011-BC.III dated 11.11.2011 regarding constitution of Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 on programme matters and advertising matters, the Central Government considers it necessary and expedient in public interest, to constitute an Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) as per following composition:

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Broadcasting - Chairperson
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development - Member
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs - Member
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology - Member
Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs - Member
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence - Member
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting - Member-Convener

Representatives of any other Ministries and Organizations, including experts, as the Central Government may decide, may also be included as Member.

4. IDC will meet periodically and hear complaints regarding violation or contravention of the Programme Code and the Advertising Code that may (i) arise out of appeal against the decisions taken at the Level I or Level II, as the case may be, or where no such decision is taken within the specified time; (ii) be referred to it by the Central Government.

5. The Inter-Departmental Committee shall devise its own procedure for hearing grievances or complaints.

6. The Inter-Departmental Committee shall examine complaints or grievances received by it and make 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.

7. The Central Government may, after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Committee, issue appropriate orders and directions under sub-section (3) of section 20 of the Act for compliance by the broadcaster.

8. The Committee will also deal with violations of the Programme Code and Advertising Code on all other platforms as DTH and private FM radio channels.

Hindi version of this order will follow.


(Girish Chandra Aron)
Director (BC)
Tele. 23386394

To

All Members of the Inter-Departmental Committee

Copy to: Director (BP&L) for information and record.

Copy also to: Director (OL) for translation.