

No.804/48/2015-BC.III
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
'A' WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN,
NEW DELHI – 110001

Dated 1st June, 2016

ADVISORY

Whereas it had come to the notice of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting that 'NDTV 24X7' TV channel telecast a programme 'Truth Vs. Hype -The Riddle of Yakub Memon' on 1.8.2015 at 21:30:00 Hrs. following the execution of Yakub Memon, who was convicted for his role in the 1993 Mumbai Serial bomb blast case and was executed on 30.7.2015 after the Hon'ble Supreme Court rejected his numerous petitions;

Whereas in the programme 'Truth Vs. Hype', NDTV 24X7 carried the byte of a certain political leader and one-time lawyer for Yakub Memon. He was seen to have said, "Usmaan Jaan Khan is an approver in this case, who is PW 2 in the trial, OK! Now this Usmann Jaan Khan has been pardoned, If you show this pardon to any person outside India, UK authorities or US authorities or the best brains in the world as far as criminal law is concerned, they will laugh at you. They will laugh at you; they'll say is this justice? Usmaan Jaan Khan has played a role in this whole operation ten times more than Yakub Ibrahim; he's pardoned (Usmaan Jaan Khan). But I should not be misunderstood because I'm not holding Yakub's brief, nor am I finding, criticizing the findings of the highest court to which I must bow down. And I say that I salute the Supreme Court for having at least afforded to him even the last opportunity at 3 a.m."

Whereas it was observed that NDTV 24X7 allowed transmission of such content which not only questioned the judicial system of India but tended to denigrate the very institution by hinting that it was not at par with the judicial systems existing in the UK and US. After casting all kinds of aspersions, NDTV 24X7 went on to show how the statement quoted above merely ended with the words that he bows down to the judgement. What was being purportedly stated as facts gave vent to apparent half-truths which might have been deliberate and defamatory. Telecasting such a statement appeared to cast aspersions on the integrity of the Judiciary of the country and hence, appeared to violate Rule 6(1)(d) and Rule 6(1)(g) of the Programme Code which provides that:

Rule 6(1)(d): No programme should be carried in the cable service which contains anything obscene, defamatory, **deliberate**, false and suggestive innuendos and **half truths**;

Rule 6(1)(g): No programme should be carried in the cable service which contains **aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary**.

Whereas, according to basic conditions/obligations of permission/approval for Uplinking/Downlinking of a news and current affairs TV Channel in India whereby permission to uplink/downlink 'NDTV 24x7' TV Channel has been granted, the channel was bound to follow the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the aforementioned Act/Rules; and in the event of failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions, permission/approval granted was liable to be suspended/ cancelled;

Whereas a show cause notice (SCN) was issued to 'NDTV 24X7' TV channel on 7.8.2015 for the alleged violation.

Neeti
1/6/16
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