

No. 804/177/2013-BC-III
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
'A' WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN,
NEW DELHI - 110001

2nd Nov., 2016

ORDER

Whereas it had been brought to the notice of this Ministry by Child Welfare Committee, Nagaon, Assam that **NEWS TIME ASSAM** telecast a **child-related programme** on 26.12.2012 at 12:11 hrs. It was alleged by the Child Welfare Committee that this channel telecast a clear video clipping of a male child aged about 7 years who was reported to have been brutally tortured while working as a domestic servant at the residence of a Govt. Servant.

Whereas News Time channel disclosed the identity of the minor by revealing his name and showing his face without blurring or morphing. Revelation of identity could scar the child for life. The channel showed the visuals of the minor child repeatedly. Owing to physical harm and cruelty, the child appeared to be emotionally traumatised. These visuals not only appeared to compromise the privacy and dignity of the child, he was also exposed to harm and stigma.

Whereas, by telecasting the above programme the channel (News Time Assam) appeared to have violated following provisions of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994:

Rule 6 (1) (a), which provides that **no programme should be carried in the Cable Service which offends against good taste or decency.**

Rule 6 (1) (l), which provides that **no programme should be carried which denigrates children.**

Rule 6 (1) (o), which provides that **no programme should be carried in the cable service, which is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.**

Whereas, a directive dated 8.8.2012 had been issued by this Ministry to all News & Current affairs channels to ensure compliance of the directives of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) as also the provisions of the Cable Television Network Rules 1994, while telecasting any content involving children.

Whereas National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), vide its letter dated 26.9.2012, had informed that a committee was constituted in compliance of the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 08.02.2012 and 07.03.2012 for framing guidelines for 'Media reporting on children'. The committee proposed certain guidelines for media reporting on children and the Hon'ble High Court, vide order dated 08.08.2012, directed to implement the guidelines, in so far as media is concerned. Accordingly, these guidelines called the "Guidelines for Media reporting on Children" had been circulated to all TV channels, News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) by this Ministry vide letter dated 23.11.2012.

Whereas Para 2.3 of the Guidelines for media reporting on Children issued by NCPCR provides that Media must ensure that due consideration is given to a child's right to privacy and to prevent the child from being exposed to anxiety, distress, trauma, social stigma, risk to life & safety and further suffering in relation to reporting/broadcasting/publication of news/programs/documentaries etc. on and for children.