

N-41013/18/2017-BC-II
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001

Date: 12th December, 2017

ORDER

WHEREAS, it has come to the notice of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting that "VTV" TV Channel, telecast a news programme namely '**Viral Truth**' on 20.03.2017 at 19:25:44 hrs. in which a man could be seen brutally beating up children in an orphanage and the video started trending on social media alleging that this incident occurred in RMVM school of Valsad, Gujarat. However, when channel conducted their own investigation about this video, it found that the video was of an incident in an orphanage in Egypt. While reporting the news, the channel has shown disturbing visuals of the orphan kids who were beaten up and thrashed brutally by the manager. It is pertinent to note that the said visuals were of **4 minutes & 24 seconds**. It appeared that the channel has tried to sensationalize the issue to grab attention of its viewers. Moreover, such visuals not only offend good taste/decency but also denigrate children by showing them being brutally tortured.

WHEREAS, a Show Cause Notice was issued to 'VTV' TV News Channel on 27th July, 2017 for apparent violation of Rules 6 (1) (a), and 6 (1) (l) of the programme code of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994..

WHEREAS, the channel replied vide their communication dated 1st August, 2017 stating that as per their investigation the video confirms to be of RMVM School of Valsad, Gujarat and other channels had also run on the same impression. However, the video was of an incident in an orphanage in Egypt. They accept not to carry any cable service telecast which offends against good taste/decency also which denigrate children as per Rule 6 [1] (a) & 6 [1] (l) of the programme codes. The channel submitted that the same incident had been reported to channel's editorial team for their knowledge and to ensure adherence to the prescribed guidelines. Concluding the reply, the channel submitted that they will take due care in the future about the content broadcast by them in compliance with the provisions of Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines.

WHEREAS, following the principles of natural justice, the channel was given an opportunity for a personal hearing to present their case before IMC in its meeting held on 18.09.2017. The representatives of the Channel appeared before the IMC. It was brought to the notice of the representatives that the said programme was based on an incident in which a man could be seen brutally beating up children in an orphanage. The channel showed the visuals repeatedly; in order to refresh their memory, the footage of the programme was also shown. The IMC enquired as to why they were showing such footage when the same was not permitted under the laws. The representatives of the channel owned up their mistake in carrying the said programme and apologized for the same and also assured that it will not be repeated on their channel. The representative of the channel stated that the video was of an incident in an orphanage in Egypt. IMC noted that the channel cannot escape from their responsibility by merely apologizing for their error. The channel is expected to be fully aware of the laws, rules and regulations.