

N-41013/4/2016-BC-II  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING  
'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001

29<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

**WARNING**

WHEREAS, it has come to the notice of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting that "People" TV Channel, telecast a news based Programme 'Cherian Philip Prathikarikunnu' – Suiciding Kerala on 12-12-2015 at 21:30:06 hrs. which showed the visuals of different suicide incidents in Kerala including several dead bodies hanging from tree and also from ceiling fan. During the course of news reports the channel had shown the visuals without making them blurred/morphed. The visuals were not only extremely disturbing to the viewers but could also hurt the sentiments/sensitivities of the near and dear of the deceased. These visuals were neither morphed nor blurred. Hence, these visuals appeared to offend against good taste and decency. These visuals also did not appear to be suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

WHEREAS, the news programme appeared to violate Rule 6(1) (a) & (o) of the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 & the Rules framed thereunder. A Show Cause Notice (SCN) was issued to "People" TV Channel on 31.03.2016.

WHEREAS, the channel replied vide their communication dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 stating that the particular incident mentioned in SCN had occurred inadvertently and apologized for the same. As soon as they noticed this they took various measure including actions against the concerned person/staff. The channel further stated that in light of the said incident, they have instituted a mechanism for strict monitoring of the content before telecast. However, the channel has regretted for above mentioned lapses.

WHEREAS, following the principles of natural justice, People TV channel was afforded an opportunity for personal hearing to present their case. The representative of the channel appeared before the IMC held on 25.07.2016. The IMC went through the SCN and reply submitted by the channel and thereafter, viewed the recordings of the news bulletin. The IMC, asked the representatives to explain as to why they telecast the news in violation of the programme code. The representative stated that the particular incident mentioned in SCN had occurred inadvertently. As soon as they noticed this, they took various measures mentioned below:-

- That they have set up a body of programme producers and deputy editor who control the content.
- That also a monitoring committee has been set up to monitor the content, the said committee also review the content before it goes on-air.

The IMC countered the representative that their checks are very important and a channel should keep in mind the sensitivities of the viewers whether the programme is live or recorded. The representative again added that in light of the said incident, they have instituted a mechanism for strict monitoring of the content before telecast and regretted for the above mentioned lapse.

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29/11/16  
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