

Government of India
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 8th July 2016

No. 9/213/2016-DAS

Subject: Transmission of un-authorized TV channels by Cable Operators – Action by Authorised Officers of the State Governments

The undersigned is directed to draw your attention to reports of security threats due to TV content aimed at inciting communal and terrorist violence. In particular, reports are being received of such content being broadcast through private satellite TV channels, which are not permitted by this Ministry for downlinking into the country. It may be noted that the role of your state government in this regard is crucial in preventing any broadcast or transmission of such non-permitted channels by the cable operators.

2. Sub Rule 6(6) of the Cable TV Rules specifies that no cable operator shall carry or include in his cable service any television broadcast or channel which has not been registered by the Central Government for being viewed within the territory of India. List of the private satellite TV channels permitted by this ministry is available on the web site of the Ministry at www.mib.nic.in.

3. Transmission or re-transmission of any TV channel in violation of the Section 5 of the Cable TV Act read with Rule 6(6) by any cable operator is an offence which attracts action against the operators by the authorized officers. As per cable TV Act, if any authorized officer has reasons to believe that various provisions of the Act including the programme code are violated by any operator, he has the following powers to take against that operator;

- i. Seizure of equipment under Section 11.
- ii. Punishment for contravention of provisions of the Act under Section 16.

4. As per Section 2 of the cable TV Act, the "authorized officer", within his local limits of jurisdiction means:

- i. a District Magistrate, or
- ii. a Sub-divisional Magistrate, or
- iii. a Commissioner of Police,

and includes any other officer notified in the Official Gazette, by the Central Government or the State Government, to be an authorized officer for such local limits of jurisdiction as may be determined by that Government. Subsequently as per the Gazette

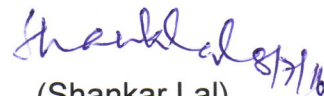
Notification number 589 of 7th March 2016, issued by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Additional District Magistrates have also been declared as the Authorised officers.

6. In addition, this Ministry has from time to time advised all state Governments to constitute State and District Level Monitoring Committee for broadcast content monitoring.

7. It has come to the notice of this Ministry that some private satellite TV channels which are not permitted by this Ministry are being transmitted by some cable operators on their networks. This is a clear violation of the sub-rule 6(6) of the Cable TV Rules under Programme code and needs to be acted upon immediately.

8. I therefore request to kindly to ensure that no TV channels , which are not permitted, are transmitted in your District by any cable operator. In case of violations, necessary prompt action must be taken by the authorized officers in the District against the defaulters to stop transmission of these channels.

Yours Sincerely,



(Shankar Lal)

Deputy Secretary (DAS)

Tel: 23387373

To All District Collectors/Magistrates

Copy to all Chief Secretaries of all states and UTs

Copy to Resident Commissioners of all States/UTs with the request to forward this letter.

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