

No. 804/114/2010-BC-III
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
'A' Wing Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110001

Dated: 29th November, 2011

To,
All TV Channels


Subject: Telecast of Programmes apparently encouraging superstition and blind belief - Rule 6(1)(j) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994

Sir/Madam,

It has come to the notice of this Ministry that a number of TV Channels are telecasting programmes, which appear to encourage superstition and blind belief. The programmes telecast have been noted to be portraying superstitious beliefs as also practices falling in the realms of occult and witchcraft. The programmes are also shown about abodes and places haunted by spirits. The portrayal is carried in such a way as to make it appear that these superstitious beliefs and practices are true and grounded in reality. No care or caution is taken by the channels to ensure that viewers exercise their due discretion. The scientific basis for such programmes is also not broched upon or taken into account, while carrying such programmes. Such programmes, therefore, appear to encourage superstition and blind beliefs in the psche of undiscernible viewers.

2. Section 5 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 read with Rule 6(1) (j) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, as amended from time to time, provides that no programme can be transmitted/re-transmitted through Cable Service which **encourages superstition or blind-belief**. According to the basic conditions/obligations of permission/approval for Uplinking/Downlinking of TV Channels in India, the channels are bound to follow the Programme Code and Advertising Code as prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

3. Accordingly, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in terms of the provisions contained in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, hereby advises all TV Channels to **telecast programmes with due care and maturity, strictly adhering to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder particularly in respect of programmes that encourage superstition and blind belief.**



[K.S.Rejimon]

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to:

1. NBA and IBF with a request to issue necessary instructions to all TV Channels.
2. EMMC with a request to monitor all TV Channels and send a report to this Ministry about further violations