



**BROADCASTING AND TELECASTING OF
THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS,
THE LOK SABHA PROCEEDINGS AND
OTHER PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS**

GUIDELINES



Audio-Visual & Telecasting Unit
Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

March, 2010

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PREFACE

In this era of information technology, the electronic media has become an integral part of human life and playing an important role in making the masses aware about the activities of the Government. The Lok Sabha Secretariat has also taken several steps to make people more aware about the happenings in the Lok Sabha (the House of the People). A history was created on 24 July, 2006 when a separate Television Channel *i.e.* Lok Sabha Television (LSTV) for the exclusive coverage of Lok Sabha proceedings and other programmes of immense interest to the masses was launched. The Channel is being run, managed, financed and serviced by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Now the people throughout the country are able to watch the entire proceedings of Lok Sabha 'live' while sitting in their home.

Since a large number of domestic and foreign telecasting/broadcasting News Agencies have shown a greater interest in telecasting/broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings because of their news values and seeking permission to take feed for the direct telecast/broadcast being done by Lok Sabha Television/All India Radio or to make use footage already recorded, it has become necessary to have guidelines, so that while doing so no private agency violate any parliamentary privilege and to ensure that such telecast/broadcast is as per established norms and standard.

Keeping these aspects in view, Honourable Speaker Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar has accordingly issued the guidelines for recording, telecasting, webcasting and broadcasting of the proceedings of the Lok Sabha and other parliamentary events and activities and supply of cassettes or discs thereof to members of Parliament, Media and others.

NEW DELHI;
March, 2010

P.D.T. ACHARY
SECRETARY-GENERAL

**GUIDELINES FOR TELECASTING/ BROADCASTING
AND RECORDING OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS,
PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOK SABHA AND OTHER
PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS**

1. The Address of the President and entire proceedings of Lok Sabha shall be telecast live on the Satellite Channel Lok Sabha Television. Live Telecast shall be stopped as and when directed by the Chair. Audio Visual record of each day's proceedings shall be preserved in the Audio Visual Unit of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

*Telecast/
broadcast
on
National
Channel.*

2. In addition to the live telecast on the Lok Sabha Television, the following proceedings/events shall also be telecast/broadcast on the National Channel of Doordarshan/ All India Radio:

- (a) Address delivered by the President to the members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall;
- (b) Addresses by the visiting dignitaries and other Special Invitees to the members of Parliament as per specific decisions taken by the Speaker on each occasion;
- (c) Speeches of the Ministers of Finance and Railways while presenting the General Budget and Railway Budget, respectively; and
- (d) Other important proceedings of the Lok Sabha or parliamentary events as per specific orders of the Speaker in that regard.

**Telecast/
Broadcast
of
Question
Hour**

3. The Question hour of the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha shall continue to be telecast live on "DD National" and "DD-News" Channels on alternate weeks as per the existing practice. All India Radio shall continue to broadcast the recorded proceeding of Question Hour in the evening of the day.

3.1 In case of any difficulty in telecasting the proceedings of Lok Sabha on "DD-News" Channels and/or on "DD National Channel" and broadcasting on All India Radio on a particular date due to any reason, specific permission for exemption from telecasting/broadcasting shall be sought well in advance from the Speaker by the authorities of Prasar Bharti.

**Coverage
of
Telecasting**

4. The telecast of the President's Address and Addresses of Visiting Dignitaries to members shall commence with their arrival and reception at Gate No. 5, Parliament House. Shots of the entire procession shall be shown from time to time.

4.1 To ensure the solemnity and dignity of the President's Address and Addresses of Visiting Dignitaries in the Central Hall, cameras shall be focussed most of the time on the President/Visiting Dignitaries and other high dignitaries.

4.2 Wide-angle shots, a few group shots, mid-shots and/or close up of the audience in the Central Hall shall be taken occasionally.

4.3 Cameras shall not be focussed on the Press and Public Galleries.

**General
Guidelines
for the
Telecast.**

5. Great care shall be exercised in showing the occupant of the Chair. Shots of the Presiding Officer shall be taken while he/she is giving a ruling or making an observation/intervention.

5.1 During the live telecast of the presentation of the General Budget/Railway Budget, cameras shall be focussed most of the time on the concerned Minister.

5.2 Occasional group shots, mid-shots and close ups may be taken either for the purpose of showing the reaction of a group of members, or in order to establish the geography of a particular part of the Chamber.

5.3 Shots of the Presiding Officer giving any instructions to the officers or receiving any paper from them shall be avoided.

5.4 Shots of the Officers at the Table of the House (other than Secretary-General) and Attendants/Messengers on duty in the Chamber shall not normally be shown unless they happen to form part of any wide-angle shot of the House.

5.5 Galleries occupied by the Press, public, officials and other guests, not being directly related to the proceedings, shall not be shown. An exception may, however, be made in the case of foreign Parliamentary Delegations seated in the Special Box.

5.6 The telecast of Lok Sabha proceedings should be a true reflection of what is happening in the House, including scenes of disorders like walk out etc. However, on occasions of disorders in the House, when members are entering the well etc. camera shall focus on the occupant of the Chair.

5.7 The live telecast shall commence as soon as the HS, HDS or the Chairman enters the Chamber and shall

continue till such time as one of the following happenings takes place:

- (a) An adjournment is announced from the Chair;
- (b) The Chair presses the button specifically provided for indicating to the Control Room to switch off the cameras/live telecast;
- (c) The Chair gives verbal directions for switching off the cameras/live telecast.

Recordings of Lok Sabha Proceedings.

6. Recording of the *Lok Sabha* proceedings shall be done by the Lok Sabha Television/All India Radio.

6.1 The portions of proceedings which are not permitted by the Chair to go on record or which are expunged shall be got removed from the master cassettes/discs by the Director (Reporter) to bring the same in conformity with the written record. And the portions thus removed shall be transferred date-wise on to separate cassettes/discs and be kept with Reporters Branch for "confidential record".

Custody and Copyright of the records.

7. Under rules 382 and 383 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the copyright of all publications, documents or reports printed/published, distributed or sold, vests with the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Providing Live Signals to Private Agencies.

8. If any private broadcasting, telecasting or webcasting agency intends to broadcast, telecast or webcast the proceedings of the Lok Sabha, either live or recorded off the air, it shall have to seek prior approval of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for the same. However, no prior approval shall be required for the telecast of clippings of Lok Sabha proceedings up to a duration of five minutes for News bulletins.

8.1 The following conditions shall apply when the private agencies both Indian and foreign, take live signal from the Lok Sabha Television:

- (a) As Lok Sabha Television Channel is carrying the Lok Sabha Television logo in all recordings/transmissions of parliamentary proceedings, it shall be obligatory for private agencies to include such logo in their transmissions using live signal or recorded versions;
- (b) It shall be ensured that no parliamentary privilege is violated while carrying live signals;
- (c) There shall be no on-line editing of the live signals;
- (d) The signals shall be provided on non-exclusive basis and the user shall not supply the feed further to any other Agency; and
- (e) Charges payable to Lok Sabha Television for the supply of live signals shall be as per the rates fixed by Lok Sabha Secretariat from time to time.

* For Parliamentary Privileges please refer to Practice and Procedure of Parliament by M.N. Kaul & S.L. Shakhder (6th Edition—Ed. P.D.T. Achary), Chapter XI, pp.219-319.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SUPPLY OF CASSETTES/ DISCS OF THE RECORDED PROCEEDINGS

9. The private telecasting/broadcasting Agencies/ Channels shall be allowed to make use of recorded excerpts/footage of the televised proceedings of the Lok Sabha/Parliamentary functions/programmes produced by Lok Sabha Television on payment basis with prior approval of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The intending Agencies shall contact the Director/Joint Secretary of the Audio-Visual Unit of the Lok Sabha Secretariat with the following documents:—

- (i) Request on their letterhead, clearly stating the purpose for which the footage is required;
- (ii) If the footage is required for use in a film/programme, a copy of the script thereof; and
- (iii) Giving an Undertaking as per the Annexure-I.

9.1 All efforts shall be made to take a decision on such requests as early as possible and communicate the same to the applicant.

Procedure for supply of recorded proceedings of Lok Sabha/Parliamentary functions and Lok Sabha TV programmes.

10. The Audio-Visual Unit shall arrange to supply audio-video recordings/footage/excerpts of the proceedings of the Lok Sabha/Parliamentary functions/programmes produced by Lok Sabha Television on cassettes/discs to the following dignitaries/members/persons/agencies:—

- (i) **On complimentary basis:**
 - (a) A cassette/disc containing the recording of the President's Address to Members of both the Houses and Budget Speeches of Ministers of Finance and Railways shall be provided on

complimentary basis to the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha, Deputy Speaker Lok Sabha and Secretary-General Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha for their reference and use.

- (b) A cassette/disc containing proceedings of the Lok Sabha/Parliamentary functions/programmes produced by Lok Sabha Television shall be provided on complimentary basis to a dignitary/visiting foreign dignitary/Government agency on a specific request at the discretion of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

(ii) On payment basis:

Recorded proceedings of the Lok Sabha/Parliamentary functions/programmes produced by Lok Sabha Television shall be provided to private and other agencies and also to the following persons on payment basis at the rates decided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat from time to time.

- (a) Members of Parliament;
- (b) Correspondents of the print and the electronic media accredited to the Press Galleries of the two Houses of Parliament;
- (c) Ministries and Departments of the Government of India/State Governments/Union Territories/State Legislatures/ Local Elected Bodies;
- (d) Established news agencies that have Press Information Bureau (PIB) accreditation;
- (e) Libraries, Teachers, Research Scholars of recognized educational Institutions/Universities;

- (f) Parliamentary political parties; and
- (g) Other persons/Agencies as may be decided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Conditions for use of footage/excerpts.

11. The audio-visual recording/footage of Lok Sabha proceedings/parliamentary functions/programmes produced by Lok Sabha Television shall ordinarily be utilized for the personal use/reference purposes by members of Parliament and others. If the same are intended to be used for any other purpose, viz making films/programmes, such use would be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the proceedings of the Parliament shall be fairly and accurately reported;
- (b) there shall be no tampering or distortion of the recordings and due acknowledgement shall be given to the Lok Sabha Television;
- (c) the recordings shall not be used for satire or ridicule;
- (d) the recordings shall not be utilized for commercial purpose; and
- (e) the footage shall not be further supplied to any other Agency/Channel.

Monitoring the use of audio-visual footage.

12. All private Television/Broadcasting news Agencies/Channels which make use of the live signals/footage of Lok Sabha proceedings shall keep a cassette/disc of their telecast version for a period of sixty days from the date of its transmission for any further verification and appropriate action, as may be deemed fit.

Breach of the conditions.

13. Breach or violation of any of the conditions mentioned above and contractual obligations of the agreement would invite action under the prescribed provisions of the privileges of MPs/Parliament and the relevant rules thereto.

UNDERTAKING

While applying for the recorded excerpts/footage of Lok Sabha proceedings, I/We undertake on behalf of the Channel/Agency —

That payment as decided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat shall be made in full, in advance, by cheque/demand draft in favour of Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.

That I/We shall abide by the following terms and conditions laid down by Lok Sabha Secretariat/Lok Sabha Television Channel:

- (a) The use/retransmission of the proceedings of the Lok Sabha shall be fair and the reporting shall be accurate;
- (b) The recordings shall not be used for satire or ridicule;
- (c) The recordings shall not be utilized for commercial purpose;
- (d) The footage shall not be further supplied to any other agency/channel/party; and
- (e) There shall be no tampering or distortion of the recordings and due acknowledgement shall be provided to Lok Sabha Television Channel.

That I/We shall keep a cassette of the telecast version for a period of sixty days from the date of its transmission and shall produce the said cassette to Lok Sabha Secretariat, if asked for.

That in case of any complaint by any aggrieved party in connection with the programme/film prepared and telecast by me/us using the footage of Lok Sabha proceedings, I/We shall abide by the decision taken by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, which shall be final and binding on me/us.

Signature
(Seal)

Place:

Date: