

News Broadcasting Standards Authority

Order No 21 (2014)

Complaint dated 21.5.2013, filed by Mr. Atul Jain regarding programme titled “Bura na Mano” on ABP news channel

1. Having had considered the complaint of Mr. Atul Jain and response given by the broadcaster and having viewed the CD containing the said programme, NBSA at its meeting held on 18.9.2013 decided to call the complainant and the broadcaster for a hearing at its next meeting (on 25.10.2013).

2. At the hearing on 25.10.2013 the following persons were present:

Complainant - Mr. Atul Jain

Broadcaster:

Mr. Vijay Vidrohi – Executive Editor

Mr. Sanjay K. Sharma – Advocate

Mr. Anand Latwal – AVP Admn. & Regulatory Affairs representing Media Content & Communications Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. (owning the channel ABP News)

3. The complaint is that in a programme titled “Bura Na Mano” ABP News tried to show Mr. Pawan Bansal, the then Railway Minister as guilty though he was not even an accused in the said matter under investigation by CBI. By airing such programme the channel has not followed the Fundamental Principles, as per Section 1, and Principles of Self Regulation, as per Section 2, of the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards of NBA. The complainant states that as an ardent admirer of Mr. Pawan Bansal, he chose to make the complaint.

4. The broadcaster stated that the programme was a political satire; that such programmes are broadcast on several news channels; that the object of the programme was not to hurt or bring disrepute to any individual and in the instant case to Mr. Pawan Bansal, the then Railway Minister; that such programmes have to be seen in the context of humour and satire; and that the programme was not aired to gain TRP as alleged. The broadcaster pointed out that no other viewer(s), in particular Mr. Pawan Bansal, had found the programme objectionable.

5. The complainant did not agree and was of the view that the broadcaster was violating the rules and regulations laid down by NBA and the broadcaster can not, in the guise of a political satire, air a programme which was derogatory and defamatory and the broadcaster should air an apology.

6. NBSA is of the view that as Mr. Pawan Bansal, who was the object of the programme has chosen not to make a complaint or approach the NBSA the complaint has to be rejected. In that view it is not necessary to examine the question whether the broadcast or any part of it is objectionable.

7. The complainant and the broadcaster be informed accordingly and the matter be closed.

8. NBSA directs the NBA:

- a) To send a copy of this order to the complainant and the news channel.
- b) To circulate this order to all Members & Editors of NBA.
- c) NBA to also host a summary of this order on its website and to include such summary in its next Annual Report.
- d) Release the Order of NBSA to the media.

Sd/-
Justice R.V Raveendran (Retd.)
Chairperson

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 6.1.2014