

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4150

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002

CONTROL ON REGIONAL CHANNELS

ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;M.V.V.S MURTHI;MOHAN RAWALE;RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to allow them to have control over the Regional Channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, TamilNadu, Punjab, Tripura and West Bengal have requested that the State Governments be permitted to have their own Regional T.V. Channels.

(c): The subject `Broadcasting` is included in the Union List under the Constitution. With the setting up of the autonomous Prasar Bharati Corporation, the Central Government is no longer responsible for the running of Doordarshan and AIR. Prasar Bharati is a national entity. Its responsibilities are defined under Section 12 of Prasar Bharati Act, which inter-alia include organising and conducting public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public of the country as a whole.