

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2422  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003  
GUIDELINES FOR 24 HOUR NEWS CHANNELS  
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;M. JAGANNATH;SURESH KODIKUNNIL

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to revise guidelines for DD News, in view of the entry of foreign-owned TV channels in 24-hour news segment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total companies which have applied for 24 hour service;
- (c) whether the Government have received pleas from 24-hour news channels;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have formulated a policy and stipulated any condition in this regard;
- (e) if so, whether it will affect the national network in any manner;
- (f) if so, whether the Government have considered the pros and cons of the new scenario; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (g): The Government has, for the first time, received an application from a wholly owned foreign company for uplinking a 24-hour news channel from India which is India focused. This has necessitated a re-look at the existing uplinking policy, in so far as it relates to the News and Current Affairs Channels. For this, consultations with various Ministries have been undertaken and it is proposed to take the matter to the Cabinet for consideration. As per the extant policy, all TV channels irrespective of their ownership (including equity structure) or management control aimed at Indian viewership, are permitted to uplink from India subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and adherence to various terms and conditions including, inter-alia, adherence to programme and advertisement codes. Details of applications received seeking permission to uplink 24-hour news channels and action taken thereon are at the annexure.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2422 FOR ANSWER ON 6.3.2003

Sl.No.	Name of the Companies	Name of the channels	Remarks
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|----|--|--|-----------|
| 1. | TV Today Network Ltd.<br>India Today English<br>News Channel | Aaj Tak<br>Under Examination           | Permitted |
| 2. | Sun TV Ltd.<br>Udaya News<br>Surya News<br>Teja News         | Sun News                               | Permitted |
| 3. | Jain Studios Ltd.  | Jain TV                                | Permitted |
| 4. | STV Enterprises Ltd.   | Punjab Today                           | Permitted |
| 5. | Zee Telefilms Ltd.   | Zee News                               | Permitted |
| 6. | Sahara Sanchar Ltd.  | Sahara Samay National & International, |           |

Sahara Samay UP  
Sahara Samay MP  
Sahara Samay Bihar  
Sahara Samay Mumbai  
Sahara Samay Rajasthan  
Sahara Samay NCR Permitted

7. New Delhi Television Ltd. NDTV Permitted

8. NDTV World Ltd. NDTV World Under Examination

9. Independent News Service  
Pvt. Ltd. India TV Under Examination

10. Star News Broadcasting Ltd. Star News Under Examination

11. BBC BBC Under Examination