

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2758
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
PERMISSION TO TELECAST FOREIGN CHANNELS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has allowed the cable operators to telecast all foreign channels in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of channels secured permission so far to uplink India;
- (d) whether any concessions have been offered to those channels; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

- (a) The Government had issued policy guidelines for downlinking of television channels on 11.11.2005 to regulate the foreign TV channels downlinking in India, which provided, inter-alia, that no cable operator or DTH service provider shall, after the expiry of 180 days from the date of this notification, carry or include in his cable/DTH network any television channel that has not been registered under these guidelines. Subsequently, a Gazette Notification No.GSR 282(E) was issued on 11.5.2006 wherein it was provided that a cable operator may continue to carry or include in his cable service any Television broadcast or channel, who has made an application for registration to the Central Government on or before the date of commencement of this notification, for a period of six months from the date of such commencement or till such registration has been granted or refused, whichever is earlier.
- (b) In accordance with this notification, 65 TV channels uplinking from abroad have been provisionally permitted to downlink in India. The names and details of such TV channels, the aforementioned Gazette Notification and downlinking guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (www.mib.nic.in).
- (c) Till 30.6.2006, the Ministry has permitted 185 private satellite TV channels to uplink from India as per uplinking guidelines.
- (d) There is no provision of any concessions/relaxations or deviations under the existing downlinking or uplinking guidelines.
- (e) Does not arise.