

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
UNREGISTERED ILLEGAL CHANNELS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether there are reports of a large number of unregistered satellite/illegal channels being broadcast in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor the content of programmes broadcast by various TV channels;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is in receipt of inputs about some channels which have neither been permitted to uplink from India nor permitted/registered to downlink in India as per uplinking and downlinking policy guidelines and are being shown illegally in certain parts of the country.

(c) & (d) All broadcasters are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the specific violations of programme and advertising codes. The Committee either suo-motu or on receipt of complaints, examines cases of violation of the Codes. If any violation is noted by the Committee, action is taken against the TV channel as per rules.

The Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre which functions round the clock and monitors the content of 150 Channels at a time. The monitoring capacity is being augmented to 300 Channels.

(e) As regards unregistered/illegal Channels, an Advisory dated 7th October, 2009 was issued to all Authorized MSOs, MSO Alliance and Cable Operators Federation of India (COFI) advising them to ascertain from the all available sources that the channels being carried/proposed to be carried by them or their cable operators in their cable TV services are registered channels.

Further a communication dated 27.01.2010 was also sent to all Chief Secretaries of the States requesting them to advise all Authorized Officers to conduct periodic checks on the basis of list maintained by the Ministry and available on its website as to whether the channels being carried within their jurisdiction by Cable operators are registered or not.