

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:278  
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2010  
BROADCASTING REGULATORY BODY  
Panda Shri Baijayant;Shanavas Shri M. I.

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

- (a) the progress made so far in arriving at a consensus on the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill;
- (b) whether a Task Force has been set up on the subject;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the roadmap envisaged for conclusive action on the matter?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 278 TO BE REPLIED ON 16.03.2010

(a) to (d): The Ministry is engaged in consultations with the different stakeholders with a view to build a consensus on the draft of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2007, which is available on this Ministry's website [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in). Consultations were required in view of the concerns expressed by various sections in the media with respect to the need, scope, functional and financial autonomy and independent functioning of the Regulator as proposed in the Draft Bill 2007.

The draft Bill was also circulated to the States and Union Territories to elicit their views. The comments have since been received from 18 States and 6 UTs. The issue was also taken up for discussions in the 26th & 27th State and Union Territory Ministers for Information and Cinematography Conference (SIMCON) wherein most of the States have expressed their agreement with the provisions of the Bill and the need to set up an independent and autonomous Broadcasting Authority.

The draft Bill has been discussed in various fora from time to time, however, no consensus could emerge. With a view to carry forward the consultations in a structured format, Government has constituted a Task Force on 27.11.2009 headed by Secretary (I&B) with two representatives each from the Indian Broadcasting Foundation, News Broadcasters Association and Broadcast Editors Association. Joint Secretary (Broadcasting) is the member convenor of the Task Force. The Task Force has been entrusted the work of holding consultations with different stakeholders including but not limited to academicians, media experts, civil society/consumer organizations, associations of other broadcasting associations including Multi System Operators, Cable operators, Direct-to-Home association, Internet Protocol Television forum, Association of Radio Operators, editors of newspapers, legal luminaries, organizations representing the interests of women and children to understand their perspective on the need, scope, jurisdiction, organizational structure, powers and functions of an independent Broadcast Regulator and the issues relating to regulation of content. The Task Force would also consider the recommendations made by the various Committees of Parliament. The Task Force has held three consultations since and three more consultations are scheduled on 15.03.2010, 22.03.2010 and 29.03.2010.