

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1978

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010

PERMISSION FOR TV CHANNELS

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

(a) whether the Government/Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has any proposal to suspend grant of permission to new TV Channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of applications received to operate private news and entertainment channels for downlinking and uplinking in the country during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the action taken in each case; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However a reference has been made by this Ministry to TRAI on 8th October 2009. Among other things, TRAI has been requested to examine the maximum number of channels which can be permitted in the country keeping in view the available spectrum and transponder capacities as well as technological developments and general practice internationally. Pending receipt of TRAI's recommendations on the issues and decisions thereon, it has been decided to suspend receiving applications for permission to uplink TV channels from India and downlink TV channels in India. It has also been decided to consider only those proposals for permission which had been received in the Ministry before the reference was made to TRAI i.e. 8th October, 2009.

(c): Receipt of applications under the uplinking guidelines and downlinking guidelines is an on-going process. The category-wise details of the permissions given during the last three years and the current year are as under:

Years	Number of News channels	Number of Non-News channels	Total No. of channels
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2007	40	35	75
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2008	58	107	165
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2009	35	46	81
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2010	06	09	15
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As on date, applications for permission to uplink/downlink 167 TV channels have been received in the Ministry, out of which, 105 applications are for news channels and 62 are for non-news channels.

(d): Although no definite time frame can be indicated, the permission is granted in minimum time once the applicant companies provide all required information/documents and the clearances from other concerned Ministries are received.