

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3907

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRAI FOR BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES

Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain private channels are violating Government policy of reasonable access to air-time to religious organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received recommendations from Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for banning the entry of religious organisations for broadcasting activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) :Government has not formulated any specific policy for reasonable access to air-time to religious organizations for private TV channels. The Private FM Radio and TV channels are free to determine their programming provided it is in consonance with the relevant programme and advertisement codes.

(c) : The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations made on 12.11.2008 has not favoured the entry of religious bodies into broadcasting activities and allow them to own their broadcasting stations and teleports.

(d) : The detailed recommendations are available on the TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in. As per the present Government policy, a company controlled by or associated with a religious body is disqualified from seeking FM Radio permission. Government has not taken a final view on the recommendations of TRAI.