

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4091

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010

NEW TV CHANNELS

Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed its decision on suspension of receiving applications for uplinking and downlinking of TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has given its recommendations on the cap on the number of TV channels due to spectrum crunch and entry of non-serious players in the broadcasting sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the parameters/policy decided by the Government for evaluating the applications for granting permission for new TV channels in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : A reference was made by this Ministry to TRAI in October 2009. Among other things, TRAI had 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, Ministry had suspended receipt of applications for permissions for TV channels w.e.f. 18.1.2010.

Even as the recommendations from TRAI were awaited on the issues relating to Uplinking and Downlinking Policy by the end of March, 2010, the Ministry was informed that it will take TRAI some more months to send the recommendations. In view of this, the Ministry reviewed its earlier decision and decided to accept fresh applications from 1st April, 2010.

(c) : No, Sir. TRAI has not yet given its recommendations on this Ministry's reference made in October, 2009. TRAI has put up a Consultation Paper on its website on 15.3.2010 asking for comments of stakeholders. The recommendations of TRAI are expected to be received after the consultation process is over.

(d) : Question does not arise.

(e) : The applications are being examined with regard to existing provisions in the uplinking/downlinking guidelines which are available on the website of the Ministry at [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in).