

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
BROADCASTING REGULATORY BODY
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has held discussions with various stakeholders on the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill (BSRB);
- (b) if so, the details of such discussions;
- (c) the composition of the proposed Broadcasting Service Regulatory Authority;
- (d) whether any consensus has emerged on the proposed Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill;and
- (e) if so, the time by which conclusive action is likely to be taken by the Government on the BSRB?

Answer

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

(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. It is available on this Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in and inter-alia provides terms of reference, objectives and composition of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulatory Authority.

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 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, a Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in November, 2009 to hold wide ranging consultations with stakeholders 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 and furnish its recommendations to the Government.

The Task Force includes two representatives each of broadcasting associations like Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and Broadcast Editors' Association (BEA) along with the Ministry officials.

The Task Force has held consultations with other broadcasters associations, namely Cable Operators Federation of India, MSO Alliance, DTH Association, IPTV Forum, Association of Radio Operators of India as also with CII, ASSOCHAM and FICCI. It also held discussions with media experts, members of the civil society, Resident Welfare Associations, academia and consumer groups. It elicited the views of statutory bodies like National Commission for Women (NCW) and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

The Task Force has not submitted its report to the Government so far.

(e): No fixed time frame could be indicated in such consultative and policy matters.