GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:444
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
PERMISSION FOR TV CHANNELS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of news and entertainment television channels functioning in the country, channel-wise;

(b) whether a large number of applications are still pending with the Government to permit the operation of private news and entertainment channels in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the action taken thereon so far;

(d) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given its recommendations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Answer

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

(a) Ministry of I&B has granted permissions to 558 private News and Current Affairs (NCA) and Non-NCA channels as on 23-07-2010. The channel-wise list is placed at Ministry's website mib.nic.in.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 264 applications are pending as on 23-07-2010. The proposals are pending for clearances from various Ministries/Departments including Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Department of Space (DoS) and Department of Revenue (DoR). Once clearances are received, permission is accorded to the channels as per the criteria prescribed in the Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines 2005.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Ministry had made a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 08-10-2009 on certain issues. TRAI has given its recommendations on 22-07-2010. The recommendations can be seen on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in.

(f) Applications from new applicants are received in the Ministry on a regular basis. Permission can be granted only after necessary clearances from MHA, DoS, DoR, etc. Therefore, no time-frame could be given for disposal of pending applications.