

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1544

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010

REVIEW OF TV AND RADIO LICENCES

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

- (a) the number of requests received for opening of new satellite TV and radio channels during the last three years;
- (b) the present status of each of the request;
- (c) the details of the action taken by the Government to expeditiously clear such pending applications and the time by which action in this regard is likely to be completed;
- (d) whether there is any constraint in the availability of spectrum and transponder capacities for new satellite TV and radio channels in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Receipt of applications under the uplinking/downlinking guidelines is an on-going process. No record is kept in the Ministry of incomplete applications which are closed or returned. As many as 75 private satellite TV channels were permitted to uplink/downlink during the year 2007, 157 were permitted during the year 2008, 81 were permitted during the year 2009 and 53 have been permitted during the current year up to 23.7.2010. As on 23.7.2010, applications for uplinking/downlinking of 264 TV channels are at various stages of scrutiny which also include inter-Ministerial comments /clearances.

Regarding private FM radio channels, no such application has been received.

(c) Permission can be granted only after necessary inter-ministerial clearances. Therefore, no time-frame could be given for disposal of pending applications. However, this Ministry has initiated a process of conducting monthly open house meetings with the applicant companies for redressal of their grievances. An online tracking system has been put in place for applicant companies to track the progress of their cases on the internet.

(d) No, Sir. WPC Wing of Department of Telecommunications has informed that Satellite Television Broadcasting companies can either hire space segment on INSAT Systems from ISRO, Department of Space or on foreign satellites coordinated with INSAT systems.

(e) Does not arise.