

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4370
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
MONOPOLY OF PRIVATE TV OPERATORS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain private television operators have monopolized the telecasting of popular channels and are not allowing the Multi-system operators (MSOs) to function in the market; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government and the steps taken to check such monopoly in electronic media sector?

Answer

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

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise. However, for non-discriminatory access of TV channels to all the distributors of TV channels which includes Multi System Operators (MSOs), the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection Regulation 2004 dated 10.12.2004. Clause 3.1 and 3.2 which take care of any monopolistic practice of broadcasters of TV channels. According to these clauses broadcasters have been prohibited from entering into exclusive controls with distributors of TV channels. Broadcasters have been mandated to provide signals of their TV channels to any distributor, if he so requests, on non-discriminatory terms.