

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1295  
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010  
REGULATING ILLEGAL CHANNELS  
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed/propose to counter beaming of unauthorised /illegal television channels including Press TV ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons thereof ;
- (c) the details of guidelines framed by the Government to take action against the cable operators showing illegal channels alongwith the number of cable operators found to operate illegal/unauthorised channels in the country ;
- (d) the name of the States which have set up district and State level monitoring committees to regulate/curb such channels ; and
- (e) the extent to which said committees would help to stop /check/ curb illegal channels ?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : Yes Sir . The Government is seized of the problem of illegal / unauthorized channels and the issue has been taken up at the highest level to address the problem.

(c) to (e) : The cable operators are regulated as per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (hereafter referred to as the Act) and the Rules thereunder. Since the cable services are localized in nature, the scheme of enforcement envisaged under the Act and Rules is primarily through the Authorized Officers, who are District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Commissioner of Police in the State Governments. The Ministry does not maintain any data regarding illegal channels. Realizing the need for a proper localized monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance of the provisions of the Cable Act, the Ministry has issued detailed guidelines for setting up of State and District level monitoring committees, which are available in the website of the Ministry ([www.mib.gov.in](http://www.mib.gov.in)). The Ministry has been in communication State Governments for constituting these committees. So far, 10 States/UTs have formed the State level Committees, and District level Committees have been constituted in 110 districts. State-wise details of these Committees are at Annexure. These committees are intended to provide a forum for deliberations with regard to the content and channels carried through Cable Network. As the district level committees constitutes eminent persons from various fields, and are from a wide cross section of the society, any action recommended by such committees to the Authorized Officers would have a wider social acceptance. The recommendations of the committee would, therefore, help the Authorized Officer to take effective action in curbing the problem.