

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3426  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010  
ENTRY BAR FOR TV INDUSTRY  
Shantha J.

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to raise the entry bar for the television industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints of threats from several TV channels funded by mafia groups;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such channels, channel-wise; and
- (e) the extent to which entry bar on television industry is likely to curb the growth of illegal channels ?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) No, Madam. However, a reference was made by this Ministry to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 08-10-2009 to examine, among other things, the maximum number of channels which can be permitted in the country keeping in view the available spectrum and transponder capacities as well as technological developments; financial viability of the organizations seeking permissions; experience of the organization in related sector; and experience and expertise of the promoters of the organization in related fields. The TRAI recommendations have since been received and are under consideration of the Government.

(c) No such complaint has been received;

(d) Does not arise;

(e) Does not arise. However, it is stated that the Programme Code permits cable operators to carry only such satellite TV channels as are registered with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The Authorized Officers under the Cable Act which include District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Commissioners of Police, are empowered to take action against the cable operators in case of carriage of unregistered channels, and also for other violations.