GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4392 ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010 PERMISSION FOR TV CHANNELS Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

(a) the details of applications pending with the Government for permission to operate private Kannada TV channels in Karnataka in the current year;

(b) the time frame for clearance of such applications by the Government;

(c) whether there is an inordinate delay in disposal of these applications;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to streamline the process of giving clearances to the pending applications within the minimum stipulated time frame?

Answer

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

(a) In the current year, following companies have applied for launch of four private satellite TV channels in Kannada language:-

(i) Reliance Broadcasting Pvt. Ltd.

(ii) M/s. VRL Media Ltd.

(iii) M/s. Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd.

(b) to (e) Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines do not prescribe any time- frame for clearance of new applications for TV channels. Permissions for new private satellite TV channels are granted after obtaining necessary clearances from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Department of Space (DoS), and Department of Revenue (DoR). As clearances from various Ministries/Departments may take time, no time-frame can be given for disposal of pending applications. However, this Ministry has initiated monthly Open House Meetings with applicant companies for redressal of their grievances. An online tracking system has also been put in place for applicant companies to track the progress of their cases on the internet.