

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011

PERMISSION TO OPERATE TV CHANNELS

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

- (a) the number of news and entertainment Television (TV) channels functioning/operating in the country alongwith the number of requests received by the Government to operate new TV channels;
- (b) whether a large number of applications are still pending with the Government to permit the operation of private news and entertainment channels in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the action taken thereon so far;
- (d) whether the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard have been cleared by the Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the number of existing TV channels which have not followed the norms/guidelines prescribed by the Government alongwith the details of action taken against them ?

Answer

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

- (a) The Ministry has permitted 314 Non-News and Current Affairs Channels and 312 News and Current Affairs Channels as on 19-01-2011. 293 applications have been received by the Ministry for issue of permissions to operate new TV Channels.
- (b) & (c) 293 applications have been received in the Ministry for permission to operate TV Channels. Receipt of new applications in the Ministry is an ongoing process. The applications received are processed in accordance with the Uplinking / Downlinking Guidelines and permissions are issued after obtaining clearances from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Space and Department of Revenue as the case may be.
- (d) to (e) Recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have been considered in the Ministry, and the views of the Ministry on each of the recommendations have been forwarded to TRAI on 02-02-2011 for their further recommendations. The views of the Ministry have also been posted on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in.
- (f) During the period from January 2008 till date (17.02.2011), 75 instances of violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes by various channels have been noticed. The Ministry has taken appropriate action against channels which have violated the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995.