

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3092
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch education based TV channel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any reservation in permitting universities to uplink/downlink educational channels;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in this regard; and
- (f) the other corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) As per the present uplinking and downlinking guidelines the permission to operate a TV channel can be given only to a company and thus Universities are not eligible at present to operate TV channels.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) and (f) TRAI has recommended that for Kids/Scientific/Educational channels, the net worth requirement should be Rs. 5 crore. It has also recommended that for recognised Universities which may come up with Educational Channels, there should not be any net worth requirements.

The Government is of the view that there is no such separate classification in the existing guidelines except for News and Non-News channels and the channel is free to choose any genre within the Non-news category. In any case the Ministry is of the view that the net worth requirement for Non-News channels be pegged at 5.00 Crores and enhanced by Rs.2.50 Crores for each additional channel which meets the TRAI recommendations.

TRAI, vide their further recommendations dated 22-02-2011, has recommended that permission may be granted to societies / companies sponsored by Universities for the purpose of setting up of educational channels. However, the net worth requirements for TV channels, set up by such societies / companies, may be dispensed with. No final view has been taken.