

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:377

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011

ILLEGAL TV CHANNELS

Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) Whether a number of illegal air-channels have been detected in various parts of the country including in some Border States;
- (a) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether some cable TV operators are also telecasting banned TV channels including foreign channels in the States;
- (c) if so, the details of action taken/being taken against such channels as well as cable TV operators during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such activities?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) The Security agencies have identified a list of 25 illegal channels and state wise details of these channels are at Annexure.
- (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 enforcement envisaged under the Act and Rules is 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 details of action taken against the cable operators by the authorized officers. The Ministry has issued detailed guidelines for setting up of State and District level monitoring committees, to monitor content on cable which are available in the website of the Ministry (www.mib.gov.in). The Ministry has been in communication with State Governments for constituting these committees. Moreover the Ministry is in the process of bringing about certain amendments in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 to address the problems of illegal telecast of foreign channels. These amendments inter-alia include making transmission of illegal channels a cognizable offence and enhancing the existing financial penalties in the Act with a view to discourage Cable Operators from transmitting illegal channels.