

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:152

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

PERMISSION FOR TV CHANNELS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) the number of news and entertainment TV channels being operated in the country till date, language-wise;
- (b) the number of such channels which have entered into collaboration with foreign news channels;
- (c) the number of requests received by the Government seeking permission to operate new entertainment and news TV channels alongwith the number of requests cleared/still pending with the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, category-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has laid down any norms/guidelines for grant of permission to operate new channels;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reasons for amending the existing Uplinking and downlinking guidelines and the time by which the existing guidelines/norms are likely to be amended?

**Answer**

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

- (a) As on 17.11.2011, 430 News and Current Affairs, including 35 channels of Doordarshan, and 415 Non- News and Current Affairs satellite television channels, have been permitted in various languages under the Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines of this Ministry. The details are available on the Ministry's website. ([www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in))
- (b) As per the Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines of this Ministry, Foreign Equity holding including FDI/FII/ NRI investments should not exceed 26% of the Paid Up equity of the applicant company seeking permission for a News and Current Affairs (NCA) channel. This Ministry does not maintain data regarding collaboration of permitted News and Current Affairs (NCA) channels with foreign news channels.
- (c) The number of requests received by the Government seeking permission to operate new non-news and news TV channels alongwith the number of requests cleared/still pending with the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, category-wise, are annexed.
- (d) to (f) Based on the TRAI recommendations, the Government had formulated a proposal for certain amendments in the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of TV channels which have been approved by the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 7th October 2011. These Guidelines will be put up on the website of the Ministry after consultation with the Ministry of Law.