

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:261
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011
MONITORING TV CHANNELS
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that several private satellite television channels are telecasting programmes in the country by having uplinking facility in other countries;
- (b) if so, the details of such channels, language-wise;
- (c) whether the Government monitors the content of programmes telecast in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether certain State Governments have either started or are in the process of launching their own channels in regional languages; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 261 FOR ANSWER ON 13.12.2011

(a) to (e). Government has permitted 89 channels uplinked from abroad for downlinking in India under Downlinking Guidelines. Details are as per the Annexure.

The telecast of programmes by private satellite television channels including news channels is regulated as per the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Act does not provide for any pre-censorship of the programmes telecast on such TV channels. However, all such programmes are required to be strictly as per the Programme Code prescribed under the said Act. Government has set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) with a view to monitoring programmes telecast by private satellite television channels with reference to the Programme Code. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has also been set up to look into the specific complaints or suo motu take cognizance against violations of Programme and Advertising Codes. In cases where violation is established, appropriate action is taken as per the said Act.

The broadcasters have also taken steps to put in place self-regulating mechanism to regulate broadcast content. In this direction, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and News Broadcasters Association, the respective representative bodies of certain private broadcasters of non-news and news satellite TV channels, have both set up self-regulation mechanisms with defined programme content codes which follow the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to consider content-related complaints in case of these channels.

As per the eligibility criteria envisaged in the Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of TV channels, only companies registered under the company's act 1956 are eligible for grant of permission. As such, no State Government is eligible to seek such permission.