

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3083
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011
ACCOUNTABILITY OF PRIVATE CHANNELS
Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) the present status of accountability of private channels to the Government;
- (b) whether the private electronic channels have sought autonomy in their operations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing rules/regulations/Act to make them accountable to the Government or to any other regulatory body; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder regulate the operation of private satellite/cable TV channels in India. Further, all such satellite/cable television channels are permitted to uplink and downlink TV channels in terms of the guidelines for Uplinking & Downlinking of TV channels. The said Act as well as the said Guidelines provide for a whole range of conditions under which private satellite TV channels are required to operate in India. The said Act does not provide for any pre-censorship of the Programmes and Advertisements telecast by private satellite/cable TV channels. However, the Act provides that all programmes and advertisements telecast should be strictly as per the Programme and Advertising Code laid down thereunder.

(b) &(c): All private satellite/cable television channels are bound to follow the statutory provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder as also the provisions of up-linking and down-linking guidelines. Subject to the overall regulatory framework enshrined in the said Act, 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 to consider content-related complaints in case of these channels so as to better manage the broadcasting content.

(d) & (e): There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government to make changes in the existing regulatory framework pertaining to telecast of programmes and advertisement by private satellite TV channels.