

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:199  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012  
INDEPENDENT BROADCAST REGULATOR  
Alagiri Shri S. ;Choudhary Shri Harish

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to hold wide ranging consultation with stakeholders on powers and functions of an independent Broadcast Regulator;
- (b) if so, the progress made so far by the task force on the above issues; and
- (c) the recommendations submitted to the Government so far?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) A Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 27th November, 2009 to hold wide ranging consultations with stakeholders to understand their perspective on the need, scope, jurisdiction, organizational structure, powers and functions of an independent Broadcast Regulator and the issues relating to regulation of content and furnish its recommendations to the Government. The Task Force has not yet submitted its report to the Government. However, within the industry, the preponderant view is that self-regulation is the best way to regulate the media and no purpose would be served by introducing any other measures to regulate content. The industry has no objection to other issues like carriage and tariff being regulated, which is presently being done by TRAI. Meanwhile, the industry has set up a self regulatory mechanism for content regulation. As part of their self regulatory initiative, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) has set up the Broadcasting Content Complaint Council (BCCC) to regulate the content on general entertainment channels. The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has formed News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) to consider the content related complaints of news channels. Advertisement Standard Council of India (ASCI) has also developed a Code of conduct for self regulation in advertising and they have set up a Consumer Complaints Cell (CCC) to examine complaints relating to advertisements.