

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3198
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
CONTROL ON TV CHANNELS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) the number of news and entertainment TV channels being operated/functioning in the country separately, and the number of requests/ proposals received seeking permission to operate such new channels along with the number of requests cleared/still pending with the Government during each of the last three years and the current year, category-wise;
- (b) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to regulate/control the increasing number of TV channels keeping in view the overcrowding in the broadcasting sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has framed norms/guidelines to restrict the increasing number of TV channels; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) As on 10-04-2012, 441 News and Current Affairs, including 35 channels of Doordarshan, and 427 Non-News and Current Affairs satellite television channels have been permitted under the Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines of this Ministry. The number of requests received by the Government seeking permission to operate new News and Current Affairs and Non-News and Current Affairs TV channels along with 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.
- (b) As approvals for private satellite TV channels can be granted only after getting necessary Inter-Ministerial clearances, time frame for approval of pending proposals cannot be indicated. However, on receipt of all clearances, approvals are being granted within 4 months.
- (c) to (f) A reference was made to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding the need to regulate/control the increasing number of TV channels keeping in view the overcrowding in the broadcasting sector. TRAI has recommended that there should be no cap on number of satellite based TV channels as a large number of transponders, both Indian and foreign, are available for TV Broadcasting. However, based on their recommendations, the Government had formulated a proposal for certain amendments in the extant Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of TV channels which was approved by the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 7th October 2011. These Guidelines were uploaded on the website of the Ministry (www.mib.nic.in) on 5th December 2011.