

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5211
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
BROADCASTING SERVICES
Shanavas Shri M. I.

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India disapproved the Government's proposal to allow State Governments, local bodies and political parties from entering into the broadcasting and distribution services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry proposes to set up a regulatory body to approve and certify programmes as being fit for broadcast as part of the public service broadcasting obligation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b)The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendation "Issues relating to entry of certain entities into broadcasting and distribution activities" dated 12.11.2008 inter-alia examined issues related to entry of State Governments, urban local bodies and political parties into broadcasting activities and distribution services. TRAI's recommendations as regards entry of State Governments into broadcasting activities recommended that the aspirations of the State Governments as regards broadcasting can be within the existing policy framework adequately met by PrasarBharati (PB) and that the Government should take necessary steps for ensuring that PB through its regional Kendras continues to give all support and assistance to the State Governments in taking their policies and programmes to the inhabitants of the respective States without any political bias. As regards entry of urban and local bodies etc. into broadcasting activities, the Authority recommended that urban and local bodies, Panchayati Raj bodies and other publicly funded bodies should not be allowed to enter into broadcasting activities. As regards entry of political bodies into broadcasting activities, the TRAI recommended that political bodies should not be allowed to enter into broadcasting activities. However, having regard to the particular importance of the free flow of information to the public during the electoral process "reasonable access" to recognized political parties during the run up to elections to Parliament and to the State Legislative Assemblies should continue to be provided free of cost by the public service broadcaster i.e. PB as is being done now. The detailed recommendations of TRAI are available on the TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in

(c)&(d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.