

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6391

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012

RECOMMENDATION OF TRAI FOR BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES

Das Shri Ram Sundar;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain private channels are violating Government policy of reasonable access of air-time to religious organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received recommendations from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for banning the entry of religious organisations for broadcasting activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry grants permission to private satellite TV channels under uplinking and downlinking guidelines. Slotting of programmes and allocation of air-time is not governed by these guidelines and are decided by the channels themselves. There is no restriction for telecast of religious programmes by private satellite TV channels; however they are required to comply with the Programme and Advertisement Code, as prescribed in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder.

(c) & (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had made its recommendations titled "Issues relating to entry of certain entities into Broadcasting and distribution activities" on 12-11-2008. TRAI is of the view that religious bodies may not be permitted to own their own broadcasting stations and teleports, but the channels may be permitted to carry programmes aimed at the propagation of different religious faiths subject to strict compliance with the applicable content code or programme code. These recommendations are under the consideration of the Government.