

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7562

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012

TELECASTING OF ILLEGAL CHANNELS

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether illegal/unauthorized telecast of TV channels including foreign channels in various parts of the country by the cable operators/Multi System Operators (MSOs) is posing security threat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of such cases reported/complaints received along with the action taken against such cable operators/MSOs during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and channel-wise;
- (d) the details of revenue losses suffered due to operation of such channels; and
- (e) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government to check/curb the functioning of such channels?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Security agencies have identified some illegal foreign channels and observed that the contents of some of these channels are not conducive to the security environment in the country and pose a potential security hazard. To address problem of illegal channels, Television Networks (Regulation) Second Amendment Bill, 2011 to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 15th of December, 2011. The Bill has since been referred to Standing Committee on Information Technology.

No comprehensive database is maintained in the Ministry. Whenever any complaints are received, these are forwarded to authorized officers, namely, District Magistrate, Sub Divisional Magistrate or Commissioner of Police concerned at the local level for disposal as per law.

(d) & (e): The Ministry has not received any reports of revenue loss. The amendments proposed in the Television Networks (Regulation) Second Amendment Bill, 2011 will act as a deterrent for carriage of illegal channels by cable operators. These amendments inter-alia include making transmission of illegal channels a cognizable offence and enhancing the existing financial penalties in the Act with a view to discourage cable operators from transmitting illegal channels.