

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2449

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

PERMISSION TO OPERATE TV CHANNELS

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

- (a) whether certain State Governments and other agencies have sought permission to set up their own TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existing rules provides for starting State owned Government channels and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to review its policy to enable ownership of such channels by State Governments; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the TRAI in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) & (b) Proposals have been received from some State Governments for setting up their own TV channels . The Government of West Bengal and Government of Punjab had sent proposals to set up TV Broadcasting Stations. These proposals were examined in the Ministry. However, these proposals were not accepted by the Ministry.

(c) The existing Policy guidelines for Uplinking of TV channels from India permits only Companies registered under Companies Act 1956 to apply for Uplinking of private satellite TV channels.

(d) & (e) The Ministry made a reference on 30.11.2012 to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) seeking their recommendations regarding entry of Government entities in broadcasting and distribution activities. In response to the said reference, TRAI has made its recommendations on 28.02.2012. Among other things TRAI has, inter alia, recommended the following;

(i) Central Government Ministries and Departments, Central Government owned companies, Central Government undertakings, Joint ventures of the Central Government and the private sector and Central Government funded entities should not be allowed to enter into the business of broadcasting and /or distribution of TV channels.

(ii) State Government Departments, State Government owned companies, State Government Undertakings, Joint venture of the State Government and the private sector and State Government funded entities should not be allowed to enter into the business of broadcasting and /or distribution of TV channels.

The recommendations of TRAI are available on their official website – www.trai.gov.in.

The Ministry vide its Office Memorandum dated 03.01.2013, has recently constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee(IMC) under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to examine various recommendations of TRAI that relate to 'Broadcasting Sector' and give inputs before the appropriate competent authority in Government of India takes policy decisions thereon. The Committee comprises of the representatives from various Ministries and Departments including Department of Telecommunication, Department of Information Technology, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), Doordarshan and All India Radio.