

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6425
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
GOVERNMENT OWNED TV RADIO STATIONS
Adhi Sankar Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to empower the Public Broadcaster Prasar Bharati on the lines of the British Broadcasting Corporation and explore options of floating Government owned and operated television channels, newspapers and radio stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several States have already floated TV channels on their own; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, channel-wise?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Government has constituted an Expert Committee on 28.01.2013 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda, with the objective of reviewing the institutional frame work of Prasar Bharati for enhancing its role as a public broadcaster and to suggest measures needed to ensure technical upgradation of the organization.

(c) and (d) : The State Governments are not empowered to set up their own TV channels. As per the existing policy guidelines for uplinking of TV channels from India, only companies registered under Companies Act, 1956 are permitted to apply for uplinking of private satellite TV channels.

On 30.11.2012, a reference was made to the 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 interalia recommended that the State Government Departments, State Government owned companies, State Government Undertakings, Joint Ventures 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 Ministry vide its Office Memorandum dated 03.1.2013, has 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 their inputs before the appropriate competent authority in Government of India.