

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:724

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009

ILLEGAL TV CHANNELS

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

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism to regulate the broadcasting of sensitive issues on TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of illegal TV channels are being run by the cable operators in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any steps have been taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the telecast of such TV channels; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): All the Broadcasting Service Providers including the Broadcasters of TV channels, Cable Operators, Direct-to-Home service providers and Internet Protocol Television Service providers are required to ensure compliance with the Programme and Advertisement Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 (hereinafter referred to as Cable Act) and the Rules framed thereunder. These codes have a number of provisions to deal with sensitive issues. The Cable Act and the applicable Guidelines also contain provisions to take action in case of violations which may include suspension and termination of permission. Advisories are also issued by the ministry to the Broadcasters as and when required.

(c) & (d): The Government is in receipt of media reports and intelligence inputs regarding downlinking and re-transmission of unregistered satellite TV channels by cable operators in their network in certain parts of the country.

(e) and (f) : The Programme Code as prescribed under the Cable Act and Rules made thereunder permits cable operators to carry only such satellite TV channels as are registered with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The Authorized Officers under the Cable Act which include District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Commissioners of Police are empowered to take action against the cable operators in case of carriage of unregistered channels. The Ministry accordingly has been communicating with the State Governments for setting up of State and District level Monitoring Committees to ensure compliance of the provisions of the Cable Act and the Rules thereunder. Recently, the Government on 710.2009 has issued an advisory to all authorized Multi System Operators and Cable Operators Associations to discontinue with immediate effect transmission/ re-transmission of illegal channels failing which penal action would be taken. The Ministry has also been in communication with the Ministry of Home Affairs to curb the carriage of unauthorized TV channels by cable operators.