

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:729

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009

PERMISSION FOR TV CHANNELS

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

- (a) the number of Television (TV) Channels operating in the country, language-wise, State-wise and the parameters being adopted therefor ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to review the policy regarding granting permission for up-linking/down-linking of TV Channels in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has decided to hold periodic meetings with the applicants facing difficulties in getting clearance for the same; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

Answer

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

(a) : As on date, Ministry has permitted 436 private satellite TV channels to uplink from India as per uplinking guidelines and 76 private satellite TV channels, uplinked from abroad, to downlink in India as per downlinking guidelines. As per guidelines, there is no restriction with respect to permitting languages to the channels and hence, the channels are given permission to use any number of languages for their channels with prior permission. The permissions are given on an all-India basis and not State-wise.

(b) & (c) : No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present.

(d) & (e) : The Ministry has decided to hold a monthly meeting to expedite the clearances for the permission for Uplinking and Downlinking and to provide a platform where queries may be responded to across the table. In this regard, a Notice has also been put on the website regarding the 'Open House' meeting on 5th of every month to clarify doubts and inform the participants about the status of their pending papers. No definite time frame can be indicated as the process includes inter-Ministerial consultation with other concerned Ministries.