

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2012
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
VIOLATION OF BROADCASTING NORMS BY FOREIGN COMPANIES
Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether some foreign broadcasting/telecasting companies operating in the country have been found to be violating the norms prescribed for telecasting/broadcasting in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise; and
- (c) the corrective action taken in the matter?

Answer

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

(a) : Violations of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 have been noticed in respect of the content carried by some foreign channels uplinked from abroad that are operating in the country.

(b) & (c) : Foreign broadcasting/telecasting companies are not permitted to operate in India. However, permissions are given to Indian Companies registered in India under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 to downlink foreign channels.

As on date, the Ministry has permitted 36 companies to downlink 76 foreign-uplinked TV channels in India as per downlinking guidelines. As per clause 5.1 of the guidelines, the companies permitted to downlink registered channels shall comply with the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995

Government has issued 84 show cause notices to 17 companies, which have been permitted to downlink their foreign-uplinked TV channels in India, for violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes. A statement showing the names of the companies which have violated the provisions of the Programme and Advertising Codes and action taken thereon is enclosed in the Annexure-I.

Apart from this, two companies had violated the provisions of The Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007 and the rules framed thereunder, and one company had violated clause 5.11 of the downlinking guidelines, the details of which is enclosed in the Annexure-II.