

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3989

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

ILLEGAL TV CHANNELS

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

- (a) the number of television channels permitted downlinking and broadcasting services during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the number and nature of complaints received with regard to television channels illegally broadcasting content in the country alongwith the action taken against such channels/ cable operators under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 during the said period, channel-wise;
- (c) whether there are reports of News Television Channels running illegally without obtaining the requisite licence and clearances in the country including Punjab;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them;
- (e) the number of complaints received regarding cable service providers running local news programmes in contravention of their licence conditions during the said period alongwith the action taken thereon; and
- (f) the details of suo moto actions taken in such cases by the Government during the said period?

**Answer**

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

(a) : Ministry has permitted 512 private satellite TV channels under uplinking and downlinking guidelines. Out of this, 485 TV channels have been permitted to downlink in India. Year-wise details of permitted channels is given below:

Years Number of channels

2006	39
2007	74
2008	160
2009	76

(b) : As per clause 5.1 of the Downlinking 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. A statement showing the number and names of TV channels which have violated the provisions of the Programme and Advertising Codes and action taken thereon during last three years i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008 and current year 2009 is enclosed in the Annexure. Government has issued 260 show cause notices to the private TV channels for violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes. The number of show cause notices issued during each of the last three years and the current year is as below:

Years Number of show cause notices

2006	159
2007	29
2008	33
2009	39

(c) & (d) : The Government is in receipt of inputs on some channels which have neither been permitted to uplink from India nor permitted/registered to downlink in India as per the uplinking and downlinking guidelines are being shown illegally. The Programme Code 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 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. The Government on 7.10.2009 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 is also in touch with the Ministry of Home Affairs to curb the carriage of unauthorized TV channels by cable operators.

(e) & (f) : A cable operator can provide cable television network services only after registration as per Section 3 and 4 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (herein after referred to as Cable Act) and the Rules made thereunder. Section 2(g) of the Cable Act further enables a cable operator to transmit re-recorded or live programmes in his cable service. However as per the provisions of Section 5 & 6 of the Cable Act, any programme and advertisement included in the cable services should comply with the programme and advertisement codes as prescribed under Rules 6 and 7 respectively. The requirement of registration mentioned in Rule 6(6) of the Cable Television Networks Rules 1994 is not applicable to local cable channels. If any violation is reported, the Authorized Officers under the Cable Act which include District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Commissioners of Police can take action under various provisions of the Cable Act. Since the cases of violation are dealt at district level Ministry does not maintain such records.