

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1176
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013
NEW SECURITY CLEARANCE POLICY FOR TV CHANNELS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether on the request of his Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs has set new Security Clearance Policy for TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Owners and top executives of leading television broadcasting companies have requested to review the recent rules;
- (d) if so, the main objections of the TV channels;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review these rules;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the context of proposals of companies seeking permission to uplink /downlink a new TV Channel had made a request to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) seeking to know whether Security clearance would be required again for such proposals even if the same company with same directors had already been cleared from Security angle by MHA and clarity was also sought on the time limit attached to the validity of security clearance granted by MHA. In their response MHA affirmed the requirement of fresh Security clearance for companies seeking permission to uplink /downlink a new TV Channel even if the same company and its directors had already been cleared from Security angle and clarified that the security clearance of the company and its Directors would be valid for a period of three years from the date it is conveyed by MHA to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) & (d) This Ministry has received a representation from News Broadcasters Association (NBA) in November 2013 to reconsider this decision. They have mentioned that this (period of validity of security clearance from MHA limited to 3 years) imposes unnecessary hardship on the broadcasting companies. Further it creates an anomalous situation as permissions for Uplinking are issued for a period of 10 years as per Uplinking/Downlinking Guidelines. They have also pointed out that the process of granting security clearance takes a long time. It has also been pointed out that this step would slow down the business of broadcasters.

(e) to (g) All such representations are dealt with as per the extant guidelines in consultation with the concerned Ministry/Department.