

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3916
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015
OWNERSHIP OF MEDIA
Arunmozhithevan Shri A.

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

- (a) whether Government/Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested the barring of political parties, religious bodies and Government funded entities and affiliates to gain ownership of the media and even surrogate of such entities for entering the broadcasting and television channel distribution sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government/TRAI has called for any legislation to regulate the participation of such entities in media sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
{COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) to (d): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations on 12.11.2008 'Issues relating to entry of certain entities into broadcasting and distribution activities' had, inter-alia, recommended that State Governments and urban and local bodies, Panchayati Raj bodies, political and religious bodies should not be allowed to enter into broadcasting activities, including distribution of TV channels. TRAI again on 20.12.2012 recommended that Central /State Ministries and Departments, Central/State Government owned companies, Central/State Government undertakings, Joint Ventures of State/ Central Government and Central/State Governments funded entities should not be allowed to enter into the business of broadcasting and or distribution of TV channels. Detailed recommendations are available on the website of TRAI at www.trai.nic.in.

Policy making is a dynamic process which may be reviewed from time to time.