

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:919  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015  
Charges against Media Houses  
Rajoria Dr. Manoj

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken action against some of the Media Houses who are facing serious criminal charges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any change in renewal of license for media houses facing any sort of charges and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has changed rules for opening News Publication House/TV channel and if so, the details thereof.
- (e) the details of the steps being taken to stop opening of TV channel by non-serious persons/organization?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): In accordance with the provisions of Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines for the TV Channels, security clearance to the applicant company and its Directors/Key Executives is a pre-requisite for running TV channels. Accordingly, the Government has withdrawn permissions to 4 TV channels namely, 7 SEA, Mahuaa News UP, ABC News and Voice of Nation, due to denial/withdrawal of security clearance by Government of India.

As per the policy guidelines notified on 25.7.2011 for Private FM Radio Phase III, security clearance is a part of eligibility criterion. Security clearance to certain companies was withdrawn by Government of India, however, the matter is sub-judice.

(c) to (e): There is no change in the guidelines for grant of permission to the TV Channels for opening or renewing licenses/permissions, which inter alia lay down certain eligibility criteria for fulfilment by serious applicant companies. However, Ministry of Home Affairs has recently communicated that security clearance would be valid till the permission period and hence, would require fresh security clearance before renewal of license/permission.

The Government has not formulated any separate guidelines for opening of News Publication House and they have to follow the provisions of Companies Act, 2013.

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