

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2248
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014
REGULATORY MECHANISM FOR CABLE OPERATOR
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of illegal telecast of foreign TV channels in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such illegal channels along with the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints against Direct to Home (DTH) operator/cable operators/service providers during each of the last three years and current year, company-wise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken in thereon;
- (e) whether it is mandatory to telecast a fixed minimum numbers of Government channels by the said operator; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the regulatory mechanism in place to check/review/ regulate the functioning of the said operators in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.))

(a) to (d) As per the extant rules/guidelines, no service provider viz. cable TV operator, Direct to Home (DTH) operator, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) Service provider, and Headend –In-The-Sky (HITS) operator can carry any television broadcast or channel which has not been registered by Central Government for being viewed within territory of India. The Ministry had been informed by security agencies about carriage of some unregistered foreign channels by cable operators. The cable operators are regulated under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The scheme of enforcement envisaged under this Act is primarily through the authorized officers who are district magistrate, sub divisional magistrate and the commissioner of police of the State Governments. Whenever a complaint is brought to the notice of the Ministry, they are sent to the authorized officers since the action as per the Act primarily remains in the domain of authorized officers.

(e) & (f) Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 empowers the Central Government to notify channels to be mandatorily carried by the cable operators/ other service providers on their networks. In accordance with these provisions, the Ministry has notified list of channels mandatorily to be carried by the service providers vide notification No. S.O. 2693 (E) dated 05.09.2013. As per the said notification, cable operators are required to compulsorily carry 24 channels, including 21 channels of Doordarshan, in areas where Digital Addressable System (DAS) has been implemented. In non-DAS areas, the cable operators are required to carry 8 mandatory channels. In addition, the Ministry has also issued orders for mandatory carriage of 24 channels by DTH and other service providers. Details are available at Ministry's website at www.mib.nic.in.

Authorized officers in the State Governments are empowered to take action for noncompliance of mandatory carriage by cable operators while other service providers are regulated under the respective guidelines issued by the Ministry.