

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3274
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014
COMPLAINTS AGAINST TV CHANNELS
Rajoria Dr. Manoj

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

- (a) the number of news, entertainment, religious, sports and other TV channels being run in the country along with the number of applications pending with the Government for introducing such new TV channels;
- (b) whether certain television channels violate the objectives for which they have been given permission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the complaints received by the Government during the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting grants permission for Non-News & Current Affairs and News & Current Affairs TV channels in accordance with the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking/Downlinking of Satellite TV channels. All TV channels are mandated to comply with the Programme and Advertising Codes as prescribed in the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed there under. As on date Ministry has permitted 821 in which 404 Channels are under News & Current Affairs category and 417 Channels are under Non-news and Current Affairs category. Applications for 243 new channels are at various stages of clearances in consultation with various Departments/Ministries.

(b) to (d) Permission holder companies are reviewed from time to time for compliances of Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines and action is taken whenever such violations of Guidelines are brought to the notice of the Government.

Ministry takes action if violation of Programme & Advertising code as contained in Cable Television Networks (Amendment) act 1995 comes to the notice, as compliance of these have been made a part of the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines. Ministry took action in 96 cases in last three years and current year wherein the channels were issued warnings /Advisory/ directive to run apology scroll or taken off air in a few case for a period ranging from 1 day to 10 days.