

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4437
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
TV NEWS CHANNELS
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj

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

- (a) the number of new TV news channels to which licenses have been issued during the last five years and the number of those functional out of them;
- (b) the number of news channels which have either stopped functioning or surrendered the licenses;
- (c) whether Government has taken note of the journalists and other employees of the news channels facing a lot of hardships due to shut down of the channels by the management in arbitrary manner without any prior intimation; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the steps being taken to protect the interest of the said employees?

Answer

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

- a) & b) 163 permissions have been granted to TV News channels in the last five years under the policy guidelines for Uplinking & Downlinking of Television Channels in India. The information regarding number of channels actually functional is being collated and would be laid on the table of the House subsequently.
- c) & d) This Ministry does not have mandate over issues relating to the wages and terms of employment of journalists and other employees of TV News Channels.