

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4593

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014

BRAI

Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Broadcast Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) on the lines of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India ( TRAI);
- (b) If so, whether the modalities of setting up such a body have been worked out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the proposed body plans to exercise control over various private T.V. channels?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): The Broadcasting and Cable services are regulated by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under the provisions of the TRAI Act, 1997. The Ministry had formulated a draft Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill for ensuring orderly growth of Broadcasting Services in 2007 and to set up Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI). Concerns have been expressed by various sections in the media with respect to the need, scope, functional and financial autonomy and independent functioning of the proposed regulator. The Ministry had constituted a Task Force in 2009 to evolve a consensus amongst stakeholders on the issue. However, there were a spectrum of views and opinions which emerged during the consultation process. Meanwhile, the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) have set up self-regulatory mechanisms for regulating News and general entertainment channels through the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) and Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) respectively. The Ministry is exercising statutory powers conferred by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 with regard to violation of content of TV Channels.