

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
SETTING UP OF ENTERTAINMENT AND NEWS CHANNELS

3457

Shri B.K. Hariprasad

Will the Minister of COALCOALINFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether there has been a large number of demands for setting up of new entertainment and news channels;
- (b) if so, whether Government has drawn up any parameters on eligibility of the applicants and viability of the channel to ensure job security for their employees;
- (c) whether Government has also assessed the extent of availability of spectrum needed for setting up of new channels in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI C.M. JATUA)

- (a) :Yes Sir. Many applications have been received for permission for new channels. As on date, 157 applications are pending for permission to uplink from India and 14 applications are pending for permission to downlink in India.
- (b) :Detailed eligibility criteria and other requirements for private satellite TV channels have been prescribed in the Guidelines for Uplinking from India and Policy Guidelines for Downlinking of Television Channels. The Guidelines do not provide for job security of the employees of the channels
- (c) & (d) :A reference has been made by this Ministry to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in October 2009. Among other things, TRAI has been requested to examine the maximum number of channels which can be permitted in the country keeping in view the available spectrum and transponder capacities as well as technological developments and general practice internationally.