

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3435
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018)**

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN BROADCASTING SECTOR

3435. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had floated a consultation paper on ease of doing business in broadcasting sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response received from the stakeholders thereto;
- (c) whether Government is exploring the possibility of auctioning satellite television channels as was done in the case of FM stations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the move; and
- (e) whether Government has consulted TRAI in this regard and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) floated a Consultation Paper on 'Ease of Doing Business in Broadcasting Sector' on 31st July 2017. The paper sought suggestions for possible improvements in various processes that establish a more business friendly environment in the sector. The Authority received 32 comments and 1 counter-comment. All the comments and counter-comments are available on TRAI website: www.traigov.in. After analysing the comments of the stakeholders as well as internal analysis, the Authority has sent its recommendations to the Government on 26th February 2018. However, the recommendations of TRAI are not binding on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has made a reference dated 21.08.2017 to TRAI seeking its recommendations on various issues including the possibility of auction of Satellite TV channels, as in the case of FM Sector to increase the revenue of the Government. TRAI has floated a consultation paper on 19th December 2017 seeking views of the stakeholders on the issue. TRAI received 38 comments from stakeholders which are available on TRAI website.
