

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 28*
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022)**

Directions regarding broadcasting and distribution channels

28. Shri K.C. Venugopal:

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

- (a) whether Government has directed that no Ministry or Department of the Central Government or State and UT Governments can enter broadcasting and distribution in future and must go through public broadcaster Prasar Bharati;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government will allow the State Government run channels in places like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to continue with the status quo;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Ministry of Women and Child Development has planned to launch an exclusive channel; and
- (f) if so, whether it will be run through Prasar Bharati?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *28 FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2022

(a) and (b): Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has recently issued an advisory to Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and State/UT Governments which states that:

(i) No Ministry/Department of the Central Government and State/UT Government and entities related to them shall enter into broadcasting/distribution of broadcasting activities in future.

(ii) In case Ministries of Central Government, State/UT Government and entities related to them are already broadcasting their content, it shall be done through the Public Broadcaster.

(iii) In case Ministries of Central Government, State/UT Government and entities related to them are already distributing the broadcasting content, they will be required to extract themselves from the distribution activities.

The above advisory has been issued after examination of Constitutional provisions, TRAI's recommendation, the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the legal opinion given by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(c) and (d) : As per the above-said Advisory dated 21.10.2022, the Ministries of Central Government, State/UT Government and entities related to them that are already broadcasting their content shall be required to do it through the Public Broadcaster.

(e) and (f) : No such proposal is under consideration in Ministry of Women and Child Development.
