

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1846
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022)**

BROADCAST OF CONTENT IN NATIONAL INTEREST

1846. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

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

- a) whether Government intends to enforce compliance of Para 35(1) of 'Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels' issued by the Ministry on 9th November, 2022, which states that companies can undertake public service broadcasting for 30 minutes per day on issues of national importance and social relevance;
- b) if so, details of monitoring and punishment mechanism to be followed;
- c) whether Government had consulted stakeholders before drafting "Public Service Broadcasting" guidelines, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and
- d) details of subjects which Government wants to include under national interest in terms of Article 35(2) of the Guidelines?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
{SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR}**

(a) & (b) : The Clause 35 of the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Satellite Television Channels in India, 2022 provides that a company/LLP having permission under these guidelines for uplinking a channel and its downlinking in India may undertake public service broadcasting for a minimum period of 30 minutes in a day on themes of national importance and of social relevance.

(c) : The provision of Obligation for Public Service Broadcasting has been included in the Guidelines on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) on the subject “Issues relating to entry of certain entities into Broadcasting and Distribution activities” issued on 12.11.2008. TRAI had finalized its recommendations on the subject with due diligence, observing the spirit of transparency and after carrying out wide ranging consultations with all the stakeholders.

(d) : As per Clause 35 of Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Satellite Television Channels in India, 2022, a company/LLP having permission under these guidelines for uplinking a channel and its downlinking in India (other than foreign channels only downlinked in India) may undertake public service broadcasting for a minimum period of 30 minutes in a day on themes of national importance and of social relevance, including the following, namely —

- (i) education and spread of literacy;
- (ii) agriculture and rural development;
- (iii) health and family welfare;
- (iv) science and technology;
- (v) welfare of women;
- (vi) welfare of the weaker sections of the society;
- (vii) protection of environment and of cultural heritage; and
- (viii) national integration

The above list is not exhaustive and other themes which are of national importance and of social relevance may also qualify for being accounted under Obligation for Public Service Broadcasting.
