

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1850
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022)

GUIDELINES FOR TELEVISION CHANNELS OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY

1850. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

- a) whether the Ministry has notified guidelines to broadcast contents on themes of national importance to the television channels, if so, the details thereof;
- b) if so, the details of penalty and monitoring mechanisms;
- c) whether Government has framed guidelines based on the recommendations of any committee;
- d) if so, whether any stakeholder consultation was done while framing the guidelines; and
- e) the basis of selecting the themes enumerated in the said 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, including the following, namely
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- (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.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had uploaded the draft guidelines on its website on 30.04.2020 inviting comments from the broadcasters. 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.

(e) : As enumerated in reply to (a) & (b) above.
