

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 714  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2023)**

**GUIDELINES FOR UPLINKING AND DOWNLINKING OF TELEVISION CHANNELS**

**714. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH  
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:**

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enforce compliance with Section 35(1) of the 'Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels' issued by the Ministry which states that companies may undertake public service broadcasting on issues of national importance and social relevance for 30 minutes per day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the monitoring and penalty mechanisms to be adopted;
- (c) whether any consultations were held with relevant stakeholders ahead of the imposition of obligations of public service broadcasting by the above mentioned guidelines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to include such guidelines within the scope of national interest;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) whether the impositions of Section 35 of the guidelines will restrict the right to free speech and expression of television channels in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

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

**(a) & (b):** Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has issued Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Satellite Television Channels in India, 2022 which is available on the website of this Ministry: (<https://mib.gov.in/broadcasting/broadcasting-codes-guidelines-and-policies>).

To implement the Para 35 of the said guidelines i.e. Obligation of Public Service Broadcasting, this Ministry has issued an advisory to the broadcasters on 30.01.2023 which is available on the Broadcast Seva Portal of this Ministry: (<https://new.broadcastseva.gov.in/digigov-portal-web app/Upload?flag=iframeAttachView&attachId=140703942&whatsnew=true>).

The objective of this process is to spread greater awareness on the themes of national importance and of social relevance which is to be achieved through voluntary compliance and self-certification by the broadcasters.

**(c) to (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 carrying out wide ranging consultations with all the stakeholders.

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

**(g):** No Sir, the Broadcasters have the liberty to modulate their content. Even the relevant content embedded in the programmes may be accounted for public service broadcasting.

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