

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3097
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2023)

FDI IN PRIVATE TELEVISION CHANNELS

3097. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:

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

- (a) whether the Government has allowed more than 75 percent Foreign Dírect Investment (FDI) in running Private Television Channels and 24/7 New Channels in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- b) the details of the Television Channels which were sold, annexed or new television Channels/TV channels started by corporate companies/corporate during the last six years; and;
- c) the steps taken by the Government to revamp the Broadcast Corporation of India Limited, the Press Council of India?

ANSWER

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

(a) : Under the extant FDI policy of the Government of India, the FDI limit for satellite News TV channels is 49%, while for Non-News TV channels, FDI upto 100% is permissible.

(b) : As per Clause 32 of the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Satellite Television Channels in India, 2022, permission of TV channels can be transferred to another company in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 or the Limited Liability Act, 2008, subject to fulfilling conditions mentioned in Policy Guidelines.

This Ministry has granted permission to 237 new TV channels during the last six years and to 5 TV channels in the current year, 2023-24.

Further, permission for 28 TV channels has also been transferred due to merger of their respective permitted companies during the last six years.

(c) : The Press Council of India is a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority established under an Act of Parliament. No steps were taken by the Government for any change in the Press Council of India. There is no Public Sector Undertaking in the name of Broadcast Corporation of India Limited under Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

However, Broadcast Engineering Consultant India Limited (BECIL) is a Mini Ratna Public Sector Enterprise under this Ministry which provides project consultancy and turnkey solutions. There has been no structural changes in BECIL. However, in recent times, steps have been taken to diversify into fields of strategic projects and streamlining its processes and procedures.

Benefits of 3rd Pay Revision has also been extended to its employees.
