

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 613  
ANSWERED ON MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023/Sravana 2, 1945(Saka)  
INDO-ASIAN NEWS CHANNEL PRIVATE LIMITED**

**QUESTION**

**613. SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:**  
**Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS**  
**be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has received a request on 22/06/2023, seeking inquiry into the transfer of shares of INDO- Asian News Channel Private Limited (CIN: U92130KL201OPTC026426, Reg. No. 26426) under ROC, Ernakulam, and to suspend the proceedings;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (c) whether the Government is aware that the company owes outstanding dues to its employees in the form of salary, provident funds, etc., if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (e) whether this company has transferred its telecasting license to any other entity following due process of law, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) whether the Government is aware that the ownership transfer has been conducted between individuals facing criminal charges, including Muttill Maram Muri case under investigation of various agencies including ED, if so, the action that has been taken by the Government?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**

**(Rao Inderjit Singh)**

**(a): Yes Sir, a reference dated 22.06.2023 in this regard was received from Shri Kumbakudi Sudhakaran, Hon'ble M.P.**

**(b): On receipt of the said reference, Regional Director (Southern Region) / Registrar of Companies, Kerala were instructed to examine the matter and furnish action taken report urgently. The Registrar of Companies, Kerala vide his interim report dated 18.07.2023 sent to Regional Director (Southern Region) has stated that he has asked the company to submit all the connected document relating to share transfer for examination. Response of the company is awaited.**

**(c) and (d): No complaints have been received by the MCA about any outstanding dues of the company to its employees in the form of salary, provident funds, etc.**

**However, Ministry of Labour & Employment has informed the following:**

<b>Type of inquiry under relevant provision of the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF &amp; MP) Act, 1952</b>	<b>Amount assessed (in lakhs)</b>
7A	66.40
14B	54.37
7Q	16.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>137.50</b>

**Recovery actions to recover the arrear demand as provided in Section 8(B) to 8(G) of Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952 has already been initiated against the establishment and the employer to recover the outstanding amount which includes issue of CP-1 Demand Notice to the defaulter, CP-3 Prohibitory Order to the Bank and CP-25 Notice to show cause why a warrant of arrest should not be issued to the Managing Director, Shri N.V. Nikesh Kumar.**

**(e): The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has informed that no application regarding transfer of permission to telecast has been received by them from the company in respect of their news channel namely "Reporter".**

**(f): On query from Registrar of Companies, Kerala, the company vide reply email dated 18.7.2023 has stated that the ownership transfer in**

**the matter of majority shareholding is completed and necessary procedural formalities are compiled as per due process under Companies Act, 2013. Registrar of Companies, Kerala vide mail dated 18.7.2023 called the company to submit all the connected documents relating to the share transfer for the perusal and examination by Registrar of Companies, Kerala and the response of the company is awaited.**

**Further, Directorate of Enforcement has informed that though they have not received any complaint in the matter of shares but they are investigating a case of money laundering against the company under the provisions of the Prevention of Money laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) recorded on the basis of Kerala Police FIR No 121/2021 for illegal cutting and selling of Rosewood worth Rs. 8 Crore near Wayanad, Kerala. This case is also referred to locally as Muttill Tree Cutting Case or Muttill Maram Muri Case.**

**Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has informed that the company vide their online applications dated 25.04.2023 and 28.04.2023 has intimated to the Ministry regarding change in their Share Holding Pattern and Board of Directors and the same was forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**

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