

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 191
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2022)**

BANNING OF MEDIA CHANNELS

***191. SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN**

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

- (a) whether the Government has the data and the details of Governmental interruptions that news channels faced since 2014 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of news channels, newspapers, media platforms, online media websites and social media accounts banned/stopped/interrupted for publishing or broadcasting by the Government since 2014, year-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conveyed the detailed explanation of why Media One was not allowed to continue their broadcasting to the channel management, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government had conveyed reasons of rejecting the renewal of licenses of the said Media One channel and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government can access the data of media bans in the country since 2014 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *191 FOR ANSWER ON 15.03.2022**

(a) The Ministry grants permission for operating a satellite TV channel under the Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines 2011. The details of channels whose permission has been cancelled for violation of the Guidelines is available on the Broadcast Seva Portal of the Ministry at URL: <https://new.broadcastseva.gov.in>. All TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code and the Advertising Code laid down under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) is empowered to issue directions for blocking of content for violation of Section 69 A of Information Technology Act, 2000. The number of URLs, consisting of web pages, websites, pages on social media accounts, etc., blocked by MeiTY under these provisions during the period 2014-2021 is 25,368.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 notified under the Information Technology Act, 2000 on 25th February, 2021 inter-alia provide for blocking of content of digital news publishers of the nature referred to in Section 69 A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued directions for blocking of 56 YouTube based news channels and their social media accounts for public access during 2021-2022.

(c) and (d) : The Government has followed the due process of law and the laid down procedure before taking a decision regarding cancellation of permission to TV news channel 'Media One'. The matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

(e) : The details regarding channels whose permission has been cancelled for violation of the Guidelines and terms of permission is available on the Broadcast Seva Portal of the Ministry at URL: <https://new.broadcastseva.gov.in>.
