

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1149
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2022)**

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR TV CHANNELS.

1149. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

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

- (a) the current requirement under the 'Accessibility Standards' under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for TV channels to carry captions in the same language;
- (b) whether the Government has data regarding the channels that comply with these standards till date, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to expedite to make 100 per cent same language captioning compulsory on all channels by 2023;
- (d) whether the Government has issued accessibility guidelines for TV channels to broadcast news in sign language and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has issued guidelines to present the speeches of important national leaders simultaneously in sign language on TV channels and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the data on TV channels that broadcast content in sign language or with captions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (f) : In line with the provisions made under Section 29(h) and Section 40 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD Act), 2016, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has formulated and issued 'Accessibility Standards for Persons with Disabilities in Television Programmes' dated 11.09.2019. The said standards prescribe for the broadcasters to make TV

programmes and news content more accessible and inclusive through implementing subtitles/captions/sign-language in a phased manner. The language of the closed captioning or subtitles shall be the language of the content. As per the available data, 62 TV news channels and 76 TV programs have been made accessible.

Subsequent to the notification of the aforesaid standards under the RPwD Act, 2016, the broadcasters are required to expeditiously meet the targets in a phased manner. The Ministry has also issued advisory to all private satellite TV Channels to carry TV programmes with sign language for accessing national events viz. Republic Day / Independence Day by differently abled people. Prasar Bharati has apprised that it carries Sign language bulletins for hearing impaired persons daily on its DD News channel. Prasar Bharati also provides the feed of these bulletins to all Private Satellite News Channels for inclusion in their broadcast free of cost. In addition, Prasar Bharati also telecasts sign language versions of events of National importance on its channels. These include address by the Hon`ble President of India on the eve of the Independence Day, Republic Day and also live telecast of Independence Day and Republic Day events. Prasar Bharati has also been carrying live sign language interpretation of major sports events.
