

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1499
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF VISUAL MEDIA

1499. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that some visual medias are changing or have changed their ownership/take over without following the rules and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Malayalam Channel "Reporter TV" has followed existing rules on its ownership change and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of visual channels that changed their ownership during the last five years in the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) The Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels, 2022, *inter-alia*, provide that change in ownership/ takeover of the permitted TV Channels can be done by way of:

- i. change in Shareholding Pattern (SHP) under intimation within 30 days (clause 29) and ;
- ii. by way of transfer of permission (clause 32) only with the prior approval of the Ministry.

Penal provisions in case these are not in accordance with the guidelines include suspension/ cancellation of permission. No such case of change in ownership/ takeover without following the due procedures/ guidelines have been noticed.

(b) In respect of TV Channel namely 'Reporter', intimation for change in SHP was received. On examination, it was found that the said change required corrective measures in line with the provisions of the extant Policy Guidelines, the same have been advised accordingly.

(c) The details of TV Channels that changed their ownership/ takeover during the last five years are as under:

Category	Language(s)				Total
	Hindi	Other scheduled languages	Hindi & English	English	
Non-news	4	70	7	2	83
News	5	18	1	-	24
Total					107
