

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.849
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026)

STATUS OF INVESTIGATION INTO TRP MANIPULATION BY REGIONAL NEWS CHANNELS.

849. SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received the preliminary report sought from the Director General of Police, Kerala regarding the investigation into the alleged TRP manipulation scandal involving a BARC employee and a regional news channel of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details of the findings of Kerala Police;
- (c) the status of the forensic audit initiated by BARC India through an independent agency into the conduct of its Senior Personnel involved in this case;
- (d) whether the Government has initiated any proceedings to suspend or revoke the uplinking and downlinking permissions of the channel in question under the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies, 2014 in light of the severity of the fraud allegations; and
- (e) the timeline for the final notification of the amendments to the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies for which a revised draft was published on November 6, 2025 to prevent such systemic vulnerabilities in the future?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(DR. L. MURUGAN):**

(a) to (e): The Ministry has taken note of the recent media reports alleging that a television channel was engaged in manipulation of television ratings by bribing an employee of the M/s Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India.

In view of the allegations, a preliminary report, including details of action taken on the FIR reportedly filed in the matter, was sought from the DGP, Kerala Police. The report is still awaited.

The Kerala Police department has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for investigating the case. BARC informed Government that it has initiated forensic investigation. The report from BARC is still awaited.

Uplinking and downlinking permissions are governed by the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels dated 09.11.2022.

Television ratings in India are governed by the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies, 2014. On 02.07.2025, the Government published a draft amendment to these guidelines for public consultations. Proposed amendments aim to enable fair competition, generate more accurate and representative data, and ensure that the TRP system reflects the diverse and evolving media consumption habits of viewers from across the country. After examining the inputs, a revised draft amendment has been further published on 06.11.2025 for public consultation.
