

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:417
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
POLICY ON DTH
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

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

- (a) whether the Government have recently permitted DTH (Direct-to-Home) services in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of broadcasting/television firms which were given permission to start the news;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated any policy in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the safeguards taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check misuse of the facility by the broadcasters?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The following companies have been given permission to uplink their news and current affairs T.V. channels from India:

1. T.V. To-day Network Ltd.
2. Jain Studios Ltd.
3. Ushodaya Enterprises Ltd.
4. New Delhi T.V. Ltd.
5. T.V. Live India P. Ltd.
6. Television Eighteen India Ltd.
- 7 Independent News Services P. Ltd.
8. Positive T.V. P. Ltd.
9. Associated Broadcasting Co. P. Ltd.

The other existing channels, having news and current affairs, are required to conform to the revised guidelines by 25th March, 2003

(c) to (e): The guidelines for uplinking of news and current affairs T.V. channels from India were issued on 26th March, 2003, which were further revised, with regard to the eligibility criteria on 28th August, 2003. These guidelines are available in Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in The Government has, in these Guidelines for Uplinking, provided safeguards, against the possible misuse by the broadcasters.