

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5974

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005

BAN ON INDIAN CHANNELS IN NEPAL

Choudhary Smt. Anuradha;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Nepal has imposed a ban on showing Indian channels;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken up this matter with the Nepalese Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;
- (d) the names of channels currently being shown in Nepal; and
- (e) the loss incurred by the Union Government due to the ban on these channels in Nepal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (d) Given the geographical proximity of Nepal, Indian satellite television channels can also be seen in Nepal. However, following the imposition of the emergency in Nepal on February 1, 2005, Nepalese authorities have not allowed Indian satellite news channels to be carried by Nepalese cable operators. Nepal 1, a Nepali language news and entertainment channel telecast from India is also not being allowed to be shown. Restrictions in respect of DD News have since been lifted.

Government of India has taken up this issue with the Government of Nepal including at the highest level. We have conveyed to His Majesty's Government of Nepal that the continuing restriction on Indian channels is discriminatory and should be lifted immediately.

(e) While the Union Government has not incurred any direct losses, it is possible that revenue earnings of TV channels may have been affected.