

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3549

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006

PRIVATE CHANNELS

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

- (a) whether the Government has started SMS and IVR based news service;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether some requests for setting up of private channels are pending with the Government;
- (d) if so, the details alongwith the reasons for pendency; and
- (e) the time by which permission is likely to be accorded?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. Doordarshan launched an SMS based news service from 5th April, 2006. Mobile phone users can now dial 676733 to get the top four news headlines and cricket score updates on match days of matches telecast live on Doordarshan.

So far as All India Radio network is concerned, News on Phone Service (IVR) is already functional at Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Patna and Ahmedabad. This service is expected to be commissioned at Thiruvananthapuram and Bangalore shortly. Besides, this service is expected to be launched at Raipur, Jaipur, Shimla, Lucknow, Guwahati, Imphal & Kolkata during the 10th Plan period. SMS based news service is expected to be commissioned in Delhi during the 10th Plan period.

(c) & (d) : As on date, proposals of the following 17 private companies seeking permission to uplink their satellite TV channels from India are at various stages of scrutiny:

1. Jain Studios Ltd.
2. Raj Television Network Ltd.
3. Avanti Media Pvt. Ltd.
4. Mavis Satcom Ltd.
5. Senior Media Ltd.
6. Associated Broadcasting Co. Pvt. Ltd.
7. Malar Publications Pvt. Ltd.
8. A Y Broadcast Foundation
9. Innovations Impex India Pvt. Ltd.
10. Nishaan Media (India) Pvt. Ltd.
11. Orissa Television Ltd.
12. Pragya Vision Pvt. Ltd.
13. Rayudu Vision Media Ltd.
14. Bharat Broadcasting Network Ltd.
15. Swen Television Ltd.
16. Sri Adhikari Brothers Media Ltd.
17. TV Today Network Ltd.

(e) : The applications are in various stages of processing and hence, no definite time frame can be indicated.