

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:764

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006

US GOVERNMENT CONCERN AT DOWNLINKING GUIDELINES

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

- (a) whether the U.S. Government had conveyed its concerns at the downlinking guidelines several times to the Indian Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c) : Since the notification of Downlinking guidelines issued on 11.11.2005, a number of foreign channels, companies as well as US Government have expressed keenness for discussion on the guidelines. As a consequence, the Ministry had framed certain clarifications on the doubts raised by them which were placed on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in in the first week of May, 2006. Attention was specifically drawn to the basic eligibility criteria under clause 1 of the guidelines which require, inter-alia, that the entity may apply for permission for downlinking a channel irrespective of its equity structure, foreign ownership or management control and that these guidelines do not jeopardize foreign investment in Indian Broadcast Media.

Recently, the Ministry has further clarified this through a detailed note on the issue of broadcast regulation including downlinking guidelines, content regulation etc. that these are not restrictions on US investment in Indian broadcast which is governed by the policy already laid down on FDI/FIL.