

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:443
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
CRITERIA FOR PERMISSION OF NEWS CHANNEL
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) the criteria and guidelines followed by the Government for granting permission for starting a News Channel ;
- (b) the number of such requests received by the Government alongwith the permissions granted during each of the last three years including current year ;
- (c) whether some requests are pending with the Union Government at present ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ;
- (e) the time by when such requests are likely to be cleared in each case;
- (f) whether there are any discretionary powers to relax necessary conditions in such cases; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) : Permission for starting a News Channel are given as per the procedure prescribed in the 'Guidelines for Uplinking from India' which were issued on 2.12.2005. These guidelines and the application form are available on the Ministry's website (www.mib.nic.in). The eligibility criteria is as prescribed in para 3.1, for News and Current Affairs TV Channels.

(b) : Receipt of applications under the uplinking guidelines is an on-going process. No record is kept in the Ministry of incomplete applications which are closed or returned. As many as twenty-five private satellite TV channels were permitted to be uplinked from India during the year 2005, thirty-seven channels were permitted during the year 2006 and thirty-one channels have been permitted during the current year up to 31.7.2007. Complete list of channels permitted is available on the Ministry's website.

(c) to (e) : Yes, Sir. As on 31.7.2007, applications of 59 companies to uplink 99 TV channels from India are at various stages of scrutiny. These also require inter-Ministerial comments and hence, no definite time frame can be indicated.

(f) : No, Sir. All the applications are processed as per the procedure prescribed in the guidelines.

(g) : Does not arise.