

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:765

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009

AUTONOMOUS BODY FOR THE BROADCASTING SECTOR

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up an independent autonomous body for the broadcasting sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objective thereof;
- (c) the composition of the proposed body alongwith the terms and conditions for its composition;
- (d) the extent and nature of autonomy proposed to be granted to the said body;and
- (e) the time by which the said body is likely to be set up?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. JATUA)

(a) to (d): The Ministry in the Year 2007 has put up a proposal to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India by enactment of a Legislation for ensuring orderly growth of broadcasting services. The Draft of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2007, which is available on this Ministry's website [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in) interalia provides terms of reference, objectives and composition of the proposed Authority. However, concerns have been expressed by various sections in the media with respect to the need, scope, functional and financial autonomy and independent functioning of the proposed Regulator.

Ministry has initiated wide ranging consultations with stakeholders for arriving at a consensus on this issue. The Ministry has already held consultations with Indian Broadcasting Foundation, Multi System Operator (MSO) Alliance, News Broadcasters Association (NBA), Broadcast Editors Association (BEA) and the Cable Operators Federation of India (COFI). A task force of Ministry's officials and representatives of the Broadcasters is envisaged to hold further interactions with diverse stakeholders to understand their perspective and submit a roadmap for the setting up of an independent Broadcast Authority.

(e): No time frame can be given as draft of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, under which the body is to be set up, is not final.