

(c) Non-receipt of full or additional information from the applicant and requirement of inter-Ministerial consultations are the main reasons of pendency.

Amendment of Cable Television Networks Regulation Act

1696. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the Maharashtra Government regarding amendment of the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995 is pending with the Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the lacunae in the Act has made it possible for a cable operation to be used for assisting terrorist activities; and

(c) the difficulties in approving the proposal and by when the proposal would be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However the Government has noted certain aberrations in the live coverage of the operations conducted by security forces during the 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai thereby endangering the locations, movements, etc. of security forces. The Ministry has issued a directive to all the News and Current Affairs TV channels on 27.11.2008 so as not to broadcast the movement, location, numbers, strategy and other operational details of the security forces as the TV coverage is likely to jeopardize the operations mounted by the security forces. The TV channels were also issued an advisory on 3rd December 2008 in this regard.

(c) The amendment of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in the light of the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India regarding "restructuring of cable services" received by the Government are under consideration of the Government. The proposal of the State Government will also be taken into consideration while deciding the matter. No time frame could be given in such policy matters.

Working of Fast Track Courts

1697. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fast Track Courts (FTCs) have been able to help expeditious disposal of criminal cases, that require early disposal;

(b) if so, the number of cases settled by FTCs, so far;

(c) the number of additional FTCs proposed to be constituted in 2009-10; and

(d) the types of cases which are referred to FTCs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Fast Track Courts have been set up for expeditious disposal of long pending cases in the Sessions Courts and