

Television channels in the country

*248. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to curb television channels in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of existing television channels, as on date and the number of new channels which have applied for operation to Government;
- (c) the existing criteria for granting permission to television channels;
- (d) whether Government proposes to bring stringent norms for up-linking and down-linking of channels in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No Sir, however, a reference has been made by this Ministry to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in October 2009. Among other things, TRAI has been requested to examine the maximum number of channels which can be permitted in the country keeping in view available spectrum and transponder capacities as well as technological developments and general practice internationally.

(b) As on date, 512 private satellite TV channels have been permitted under uplinking and downlinking guidelines. Whereas 152 applications are pending for permission to uplink from India and 14 applications are pending for permission to downlink in India.

(c) Detailed eligibility criteria and other requirements for private satellite TV channels have been prescribed in the Guidelines for Uplinking from India and Policy Guidelines for Downlinking of Television Channels. These guidelines are available on the Ministry's website at <http://www.mib.nic.in>.

(d) and (e) TRAI recommendations are awaited.

Financial malpractices in companies

*251. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of high volatility in the Indian markets due to global economic crisis, the small and medium investors are the worst hit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in order to overcome the crisis, the companies often resort to manipulation of financial management; and

(c) in what manner his Ministry ensures, through corporate governance and other methods, that no malpractices in financial and other management of a company take place?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Investments in equity market are subject to market risk. Investors whether small or big should take informed