

New channel of DD

385. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan is going to launch a new channel that would cater exclusively to the Asian community in England;

(b) whether all the formalities in this regard have since been completed; and

(c) by when it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati had proposed to broadcast DD News Channel to the U.K. audience through a DTH (B sky B) platform. Doordarshan has been asked to work out financial details including financial sustainability.

Telecast of programmes for adults

†386. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai High Court has recently directed Government to take necessary action to ensure that satellite T.V. channels telecast only such programmes for adults that have got approval of the Censor Board; and

(b) if so, the necessary steps taken by Government to implement the directions indicating the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Directions were given by the Mumbai High Court to seven TV channels, who are respondents in Writ Petition No. 1232/2004—Ms. Pratibha Naithani Vs. Union of India and Others, and other TV channels, on 1st September, 2004, restraining them from telecasting any adult TV programmes and films without appropriate certificate from CBFC.

(b) (i) Television channels transmitted or retransmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the provisions of Rule 6(1)(o) of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 read with Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, which provides that no programme should be carried in the Cable Service which is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.