

reforms in the broadcasting sector, the Ministry has sought recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on various issues as under:—

Sl. No.	Issue	Date of reference
1.	Issues relating to Media Ownerships	16.05.2012
2.	Guidelines/Accreditation mechanism for Television Rating Points	31.08.2012
3.	Entry of Government Entities intro broadcasting and distribution activities	30.11.2012
4.	Restriction on monopolistic practices by Multi System Operators/Local Cable Operators	12.12.2012
5.	Transmission of local or ground based channels	17.01.2013

(c) to (e) TRAI has floated a consultation paper on issues relating to Media Ownerships on 15.02.2013 and it has issued its recommendations on Entry of Government Entities into broadcasting and distribution activities. The Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to examine various recommendations of TRAI. The other references are with TRAI and no time frame can be prescribed as TRAI examines these issues after a due consultative process.

Paid news cases

703. DR. T.N. SEEMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has detected over 400 “confirmed cases of paid news” in the recently concluded Gujarat assembly polls;

(b) the action taken by Government against the erring candidates and the media companies involved;

(c) whether instances of cross media ownership have come to the knowledge of Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has taken any steps to prevent/restrict creation of a monopolistic scenario with business groups investing in multiple and similar vehicles;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (g) The Government is seized of the issue of monopolistic practices in the various segments of broadcasting sector and accordingly a reference to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was made on 16.05.2012 to examine the entire gamut of media ownership issues. The Ministry has requested TRAI to provide recommendations on specific issues of vertical integration within the various segments in the Broadcasting Sector as in the present scenario more and more broadcasting companies owning television channels are venturing into various distribution platforms, namely cable TV distribution, DTH, and IPTV etc. and similarly many companies owning distribution platforms are also entering into television broadcasting. TRAI has also been asked to look into the issue of horizontal integration wherein companies have controls/ownerships across print, TV and Radio. TRAI recommendations are awaited. The Ministry is also in the process of making a reference to the TRAI to examine the spectra of alleged monopolistic practices in the distribution segment of Broadcasting Sector.

Functioning of Community Radios

704. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to undertake a thorough examination of functioning of Community Radios (CRs), which completed one decade of its existence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) and (b) Review of the functioning of Community Radio Stations (CRS) is a continuous exercise. This Ministry has so far issued 418 permissions to various organizations to operate Community Radio Stations in India. Ministry has examined issues concerning the growth and functioning of community radio stations in India. In order to provide an impetus to this sector a Plan Scheme has been proposed to provide support to CRS in the Twelfth Plan Period. An