

Prasar Bharti Recruitment Board

3462. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of employees handed over to Prasar Bharati by Government of India in 1997 for DD and AIR separately, programming and engineering, wing-wise;
- (b) the number of employees retired from DD and AIR since then, year-wise along with current status, group-wise;
- (c) the current status of constitution of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board;
- (d) the ratio of employees in DD and AIR, separately, serving the population of India since 1997 and current status as compared with BBC; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board has not yet been constituted.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extension of licence period for DTH operators

3463. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to extend the licence period for direct to home (DTH) operators from 10 years to 20 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government also proposes to allow existing DTH operators to migrate to the new regime at any time during the currency of their existing licences; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) As per

provisions of clause 2.1 of DTH guidelines, the validity of license shall be ten (10) years, on non-exclusive basis, and shall be reckoned from the date of issue of Wireless Operational License by the Wireless Planning and Coordination wing of Ministry of Communication. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations dated 23.07.2014 on “Issues related to New DTH Licenses” has *inter-alia*, recommended that the new licensing regime for DTH license should be for a period of 20 years and once the Government notifies the new DTH licensing regime, the existing DTH operators shall be allowed to migrate to the new regime at any time during the currency of their existing license. These recommendations are available at TRAI’s website: <http://www.trai.gov.in>. All such matters are looked at as part of policy making process from time-to-time.

Illegal telecast of foreign channels

3464. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of TV channels of foreign origin which are down-linked legally in the country;
- (b) whether the security agencies have identified certain illegal foreign channels, the contents of which is not conducive to the security environment of the country and has posed a potential security hazard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken by Government to address the problem of illegal telecast of foreign channels and also to discourage cable operators for transmitting such illegal channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) There are 93 private satellite TV channels which are Uplinked from outside India and have been granted permission to downlink in India under the policy guidelines for Downlinking of Television Channels.

(b) to (d) The Ministry had been informed by security agencies about carriage of some unregistered foreign channels by cable operators. To address the problem of carriage of unregistered channels by cable operators, the Ministry had introduced a Bill, namely, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Second Amendment Bill, 2011 in Lok Sabha on 15 December, 2011. The said Bill was subsequently referred to the