

of Television Channels in India, 2011. As on date, permissions have been given to 35 channels for Uplinking only, 93 channels for Downlinking only and 690 channels for Uplinking and Downlinking.

The channels can transmit in any language/ dialect of their choice as indicated in the permission letter of this Ministry. However, language permission specifically is not a mandatory requirement under the Guidelines.

#### **Licenses granted to cable TV operators**

304. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted by Government for granting license to Cable TV operators/ DTH operators in the country;
- (b) the total number of licenses granted by the Centre during the last three years, year-wise and company-wise; and
- (c) whether the Center has received any complaints regarding non-grant of such licenses from any one, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) As per Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995, Cable Operators are required to get registrations from Post Offices. However, as per amendment in Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 2011, the Multi System Operators are required to get registration from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for operation in Digitization Addressable Systems (DAS) notified areas. DTH licenses are granted under "DTH guidelines issued on 15.3.2001". These are available at the Ministry's website [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in).

(b) This Ministry has so far granted 129 permanent MSO registrations for operating in DAS notified areas. The details are available on the Ministry's website [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in). No licenses have been granted in respect of DTH services during the last three years.

(c) This Ministry has received a letter dated 3.6.2014 from the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for grant of Multi System Operator (MSO) registration to M/s Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited for operating in the Digital Addressable System (DAS) notified areas of Tamil Nadu. The application of M/s Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited is being examined in the light of the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding entry of Government entities in the broadcasting and distribution activities.