

(b) whether Government has asked the TRAI to study about capping the number of channels in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the TRAI in this regard and the steps taken thereon;

(d) whether Government proposes to amend the uplinking and downlinking policy in order to check incessant increase in the number of news channels in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had made a reference to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding putting a cap on the total number of channels that can be permitted.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) *vide* its recommendations dated 23.07.2010 has recommended that “no cap be placed on the number of satellite broadcasting channels to be permitted to be downlinked from viewing in India or to be uplinked from India”.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal at present pending consideration in this Ministry.

Closing down of News Channels

†2225. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that owing to different reasons various news channels have closed down recently rendering hundreds of media personnel unemployed;

(b) if so, whether Government has any policy to utilize the talent and workmanship of unemployed media personnel by re-employing them; and

(c) if not, whether closing down of news channels and rendering people jobless will keep happening in future?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE) : (a) During the last 3 years, Ministry has withdrawn permission of 27 News & Current Affairs TV channels for reasons of non-operationalization of TV Channels or Surrender of permission, etc. Issues related to employment of media personnel, working in the TV Channels (Including News Channels), are governed by the prevalent Labour Laws.

(b) and (c) Policy making is a continuous process that is reviewed from time to time.

Impact of Obscenity in Films on Youth

†2226 : SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHAYAP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any review or study regarding the growing tendency among youth towards crime and drug addiction due to the ill effect of showing violence, vulgarity, sex and sexual crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to issue any new direction to Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) so that a sense of rebuilding the nation could be inculcated among youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

Report of Expert Committee on Prasar Bharati

2227. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted the recommendations in the Report of the Expert Committee on Prasar Bharati submitted to the Ministry under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted by Government and the roadmap for implementation thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.