

**Policy for security clearance to private TV channels**

392. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made certain changes in the policy to give security clearance and granting licences to private TV channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that TV channel promoters, bidders of the company are not involved in any cases that had implications on national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs has formulated a policy for national security clearance for certain sensitive sectors of the economy including private TV channels by codifying all existing practices. In addition, the policy has also liberalized certain investment restrictions existing earlier. The new policy is aimed at bringing about a healthy balance between meeting the imperatives of national security and facilitating ease of doing business and promoting investment in the country. The policy has been formulated in discharge of the mandate of the Ministry of Home affairs to exercise oversight over India's internal security.

(c) The permission for Uplinking/downlinking of TV channels are granted by the Government after security clearance to the company, its promoters, directors and key Executives. The Security Clearance procedure takes into account their involvement, if any, in any case(s) that might have adverse implications on national security.

**Foreign links in Khagragarh, West Bengal blasts**

393. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign links have been traced in the Khagragarh, West Bengal blasts;

(b) if so, which foreign organisations are associated with the blast;

(c) whether any foreign national has been arrested in connection with the blast; and

(d) whether the foreign terrorist organisation had any political links in India?