

Restriction of number of channels

3228. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to impose any restriction on permission to Satellite TV channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the manner in which Government will watch content of TV channels and numerous regional channels voluntarily; and
- (d) the details of number of TV channels permitted till date, category-wise and language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) and (b) Permissions are granted to TV Channels based on the terms and conditions laid down under the Policy Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Private Satellite TV Channels, 2011. The Policy Guidelines are available on this Ministry's website on the link <http://www.broadcastseva.gov.in>

(c) An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) comprising representatives from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Information and Broadcasting and a representative from the industry in Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has been constituted to examine the violation regarding the content telecast on private TV channels with reference to the Programme and Advertising Codes as prescribed in the Cable and Television Network Act, 1995. Apart from this, the Ministry has also issued directions on 06.09.2005 to States to set up District level and State level Monitoring Committees to regulate the content telecast on cable TV channels.

(d) As on 31.5.2019, there are 908 permitted Private Satellite TV Channels. Category-wise and language-wise details are available on this Ministry's website on the link <https://www.broadcastseva.gov.in/webpage-User-tvchannels>

Action on complaints regarding cable TV operators

3229. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any complaints that several cable TV operators are continuing to re-transmit channels which are objectionable and potentially harmful to nation's security; and

(b) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. As per Section 5 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 no person shall transmit or re-transmit through a cable service any programme unless such programme is in conformity with the Programme Code of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

Sub Rule 6(6) of the Cable TV Rules stipulates that no cable operator shall carry or include in his cable service any television broadcast or channel which has not been registered by the Central Government for being viewed within the territory of India.

Further, as per Sec 2 of the Cable TV Act, 1995, District Magistrate/ Additional District Magistrate / Sub-Divisional Magistrate/Commissioner of Police are the authorized officers who have powers (under Section 11 of CTN Act, 1995) to seize the equipment used for operating Cable TV Network if the cable operators violate provisions of the Cable Act.

The complaints received in the Ministry were forwarded to the Authorized officers of the concerned areas to examine the complaints and take immediate necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 for violations, if any.

In this regard, the Ministry had issued an Advisory on 08.07.2016 to all MSOs/ LCOs directing them not to transmit signals of un-authorized satellite TV Channels on their cable network, failing which necessary action will be taken against them as per the provisions of the Cable Act/Rules. Also, all the DMs/Collectors across the country, being Authorized Officers, were requested to ensure that no unauthorised TV Channels, are transmitted in their respective Districts by any cable operator.

Setting up of Film and Television Institutes

3230. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to set up Film and Television Institutes of India in different parts of the country; and