

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1930  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010  
INTER CONNECTING OF TV CHANNELS  
Patel Shri Devji

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of Indian/foreign channels presently being broadcasted in the country;
- (b) whether the Government earns revenue from the inter connecting of foreign and Indian channels;
- (c) if so, the details of the foreign exchange earned through such inter connecting of channels in the country including news channels;
- (d) whether inter connection of channels in India is cheap as compared to other countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

- (a): As on date, Ministry has permitted 453 private satellite TV channels to uplink from India as per uplinking guidelines. Out of which, 28 channels are not for downlinking in India. Apart from this, 76 private satellite TV channels, uplinked from abroad, have been permitted to downlink in India as per downlinking guidelines.
- (b): Broadcasting companies are required to pay taxes as applicable to the Indian Government taking into account all possible sources of revenue including those from such inter-connection with foreign channels, if any.
- (c): No such data is being maintained in the Ministry.
- (d) & (e): No such data or studies are available with the Ministry.