

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:83
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2011
OPERATIONAL STATUS OF TV CHANNELS
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the policy of issuing licenses to Satellite Television Channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has requested all the existing satellite based television channels to provide details of their operational status alongwith wireless planning and coordination licences;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of channels which have furnished the details of their operational status so far;
- (e) the details of tariff/fee/royalty structure that satellite based television channels pay for using spectrum;
- (f) whether the grant of spectrum to satellite based television channels are based upon a criterion that has been recommended by experts or a regulatory body; and
- (g) if so, whether the satellite based television channels, Government and private channels pay the commercial price of spectrum allocated to them?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (g) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.83 FOR ANSWER ON 01.03.2011

(a) & (b) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had consulted Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and sought its recommendations on certain issues like maximum number of Television channels that can be permitted in India, whether there is a case for putting a cap on the total number of permissions for channels, net worth criteria, experience of the company in the related sector etc. Ministry is in the process of taking a final view in the matter.

(c) & (d) All satellite television channels were requested to provide details of their operational status along with Wireless Planning and Co-ordination (WPC) License. As per the information provided by Network Operation Control Centre (NOCC), Department of Telecommunications 445 channels are operational.

(e) (f) & (g) The allocation and determination of spectrum/bandwidth requirement and charges to be paid for its usage do not fall within the purview of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As informed by WPC Wing of the Department of Telecommunication, no tariff/fee/royalty is payable to WPC Wing for spectrum charges from the TV channel owner, as TV channel uses the spectrum assigned to Teleport Operator for Uplinking their TV channel. Teleport owner pays the spectrum charges @ Rs. 35,000/- per MHz per year or part thereof for the frequency spectrum assigned to the licensee as per the existing order.

Besides above, Network Operations Control Centre (NOCC), Department of Telecommunications has informed that a Teleport operator/Satellite TV channel to whom the bandwidth is allocated is required to pay Rs. 21 lakhs per transponder (36 MHz) per annum on a pro rata basis depending on the bandwidth allocated to it as NOCC monitoring charges.

Further as informed by Department of Space (DoS), Rs. 4 Crores per year per transponder (36 MHz) is required to be paid as INSAT transponder charges. The price of the leased transponder from foreign satellite is as per the existing market rates prevailing in the market.

ISRO has further informed that it follows INSAT Coordination Committee (ICC) approval to allocate bandwidth to various users on INSAT/GSAT satellites' based on coding/compression proposed by the user.