

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6349
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
TV CHANNELS
Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) the number of television channels operated in the country as of 1.4.2012 including national, regional, public, private and others;
- (b) the companies who have been granted licenses to start television channels but have not operated till last month, alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of spectrum being used by each of these television channels to uplink or downlink their respective signals, channel-wise;
- (d) the details of the charges paid/being paid to the Government for utilizing the spectrum on an annual basis to uplink and downlink their signal;
- (e) whether the Government has taken up or intends taking up with the Wireless Protocol and Coordination (WPC) Division of the Ministry of Communications to revise the spectrum charges paid up by the television channels;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of the action taken by the Government against those channels who have obtained licenses and have not operated the channel?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The private satellite TV channels are permitted on pan-India basis to those companies which are registered under the Companies Act 1956. As per the information provided by the National Operations Control Centre (NOCC) and as per the records available with the Ministry, 681 private satellite TV channels are operational as on April 2012. 116 channels are within the prescribed period of one year for operationalisation as per the Uplinking /downlinking guidelines. 37 channels are found to be non-operational even after one year of permission.

(c) & (d) Wireless Planning & Coordination (WPC) Wing of Ministry of Communication & IT allocates spectrum to the Teleport operators for Uplinking TV channels. The teleport operators pay spectrum charges to WPC wing proportional to the satellite bandwidth consumed. WPC has informed that the existing spectrum charge is Rs 87,500/- per MHz per annum. The channels pay the above rates to the teleport operators for the satellite bandwidth used by them.

(e) & (f) WPC wing of Ministry of Communication & IT has informed that they have revised the royalty charges and license fees w.e.f. 01.04.2012 vide order no. P-11014/34/2009 – PP (III) & (IV) dated 22.03.2012.

(g) As mentioned in reply (a) & (b) above, out of 37 non-operational channels, the Government has cancelled the permission of 5 private satellite TV channels which could not operationalize within the prescribed period. 3 channels have requested to extend their operationalization time against notice for cancellation. 27 TV channels have sought extension of time for operationalisation of their channels. They have been asked to submit Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) as per the extant Uplinking Guidelines. Permission of 2 channels has been withdrawn on request of the company.