

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2871

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012

EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION CHANNELS

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had proposed to launch 1000 educational television channels throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry proposed to launch 50 round-the-clock education channels and had approached the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) in this regard;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the I&B Ministry thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government for launch of educational television channels?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b) Sir, under National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, utilization of DTH for beaming various educational lectures has been visualized. In the Mission, it has been envisaged to have about 40 - 50 transponders from Indian satellites to enable telecast of 1000 DTH channels simultaneously. This would enable availability of one DTH channels for every subject for every class and in many of the regional languages. This would reduce the waiting time for watching the next lecture on that subject / topic or for repeat telecast based on demand.

(c) to (e) In the first instance, it has been decided that the Mission will launch about 50 DTH educational channels in a number of subjects at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and for this Department of Space (DOS) has allocated two transponders on GSAT-8 to this Ministry. Up-linking of these education channels on DTH requires WPC and SACFA clearances, which stipulate no objection certificate (NOC) from Ministry of I&B. The Ministry of I&B has declined to grant NOC citing the reason that under their guidelines, approved by the Cabinet, only companies registered under Companies Act, 1956 can be given NOC for setting up the DTH channels. Since NMEICT is directly a part of MHRD, it does not fit into the definition of a company and, therefore, the NOC was denied. For resolution of this issue, this Ministry has already taken action to place the matter before Committee of Secretaries (CoS).