

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2911

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012

MONOPOLY IN CABLE TV SECTOR

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to check the prevalence of monopoly in the cable TV sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/action being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) to (d) The Ministry is seized of the issue of monopolistic practices in the various segments of broadcasting sector and accordingly a reference to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was made on 16.5.2012 to examine the entire gamut of media ownership issues. The Ministry has requested TRAI to provide recommendations on specific issues of vertical integration within the various segments in the Broadcasting Sector as in the present scenario more and more broadcasting companies owning television channels are venturing into various distribution platforms, namely cable TV distribution, DTH, and IPTV etc. and similarly many companies owning distribution platforms are also entering into television broadcasting. TRAI has also been asked to look into the issue of horizontal integration wherein companies have controls/ownerships across print, TV and Radio. TRAI recommendations are awaited. The Ministry is also in the process of making a reference to the TRAI to examine the spectre of alleged monopolistic practices in the distribution segment of the Broadcasting Sector..