

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2975
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
MONOPOLY BY PRIVATE TV OPERATORS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain private television operators have monopolized the telecasting of popular channels and are not allowing the Multi-System Operators to function in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check such monopoly in the electronic media?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) 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.