

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2423  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013  
SPECTRUM FOR TV CHANNELS  
Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing number of television channels in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to control the increasing number of TV channels in view of the overcrowding in the broadcasting sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;
- (e) whether various television channels/broadcasting companies are facing difficulties on account of spectrum; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) There has been a significant growth in the number of TV Channels over the years in the country. The number of private satellite Television channels stands at 833 as on date. This Ministry had made a reference to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 8.10.2009, seeking its recommendations on several issues, including putting a cap on the number of permissions for TV channels. TRAI in its recommendations on " Policy Issues relating to Uplinking/Downlinking of Television Channels in India" dated 22.07.2010 has stated that no cap can be placed on the number of satellite broadcasting channels to be permitted to be downlinked for viewing in India or to be uplinked from India .

(c) & (d) There is no such proposal in the Ministry.

(e) & (f) Department of Space has informed that due to increasing demand for satellite bandwidth, the television channels/broadcasting companies are facing difficulties to get the required satellite bandwidth. The steps taken /proposed to be taken in this regard include:

- (i) leasing transponder capacity from foreign operators to meet the demand.
- (ii) building and launching additional INSAT/GSAT satellites to augment the transponder capacity in the country.