

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5626
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013
INTER CONNECTING OF TV CHANNELS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian/foreign TV channels operating in the country at present;
- (b) whether the Government earns revenue from the inter connecting of foreign and Indian TV channels;
- (c) if so, the details of the foreign exchange earned through such inter connecting of TV channels in the country including news channels;
- (d) whether inter connection of TV channels in India is cheap as compared to other countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) The Ministry has permitted 811 private satellite TV channels as on date under the uplinking and downlinking guidelines. This includes 92 foreign TV channels permitted for downlinking into India, which are uplinked from abroad.
- (b) to (e) The private satellite TV channels are governed by the policy guidelines for uplinking and Downlinking .These guidelines do not have any provision for interconnecting of foreign and Indian TV channels.