

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:21
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013
LICENCES TO PUNJABI TELEVISION CHANNELS
Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) the total number of Punjabi language Television channels granted licenses till date;
- (b) whether a cable operator can telecast news on his own without having necessary permissions from the Government;and
- (c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb this practice?

Answer

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

- (a) 48 Television channels permitted by the Ministry broadcast programmes in Punjabi among other languages.
- (b) & (c) The Ministry has made a reference to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in January 2013 to look into the entire aspect of transmission of local channels including news channels operated by the local cable operators.