

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1271

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013

TV CHANNELS

Pakirappa Shri S.;Paswan Shri Kamlesh

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

- (a) whether more TV channels are being aired in the country than the actual requirement of the people and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to study about capping the number of channels in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made by the TRAI in this regard and the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to amend the uplinking and downlinking policy in order to check incessant increase in the number of news channels in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

Answer

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

(a)to (c) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had made a reference to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding putting a cap on the total number of channels that can be permitted.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide its recommendations dated 23.07.2010 has recommended that "no cap be placed on the number of satellite broadcasting channels to be permitted to be downlinked from viewing in India or to be uplinked from India."

(d) & (e) There is no such proposal at present pending consideration in this Ministry.