

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SPACE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2030  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014  
PRICING OF SATELLITE TRANSPONDERS  
Mohan Shri P. C.

**Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether ISRO has given any proposal for allocation and pricing of satellite transponders for public and non-Government users and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of INSAT/GSAT satellites available at present and the number of Government and non-Government users;
- (c) whether ISRO shall be permitted to multi-pricing policy for its transponders depending upon their status and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether several DTH users are using foreign satellites at present and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve their issues and bring them back into the ISRO fold?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Yes Madam. Based on the review and approval of INSAT Co-ordination Committee (ICC) and Space Commission, a revised policy guideline for allocation and pricing of transponders has been evolved and is being processed for Government approval. It envisages a rational classification structure for users such as Strategic, Government including Societal, not-for-profit PSUs and Commercial to form a basis for allocation and pricing of transponders.
- (b) At present, there are 12 INSAT/GSAT satellites in orbit, out of which 10 are communication satellites and 2 are meteorological satellites. In INSAT/GSAT satellite system there are 41 Government users and 59 non-Government users are utilizing the capacity in C band, Extended C Band and Ku band to the extent of 152 transponders (36 MHz equivalent each).
- (c) At present, a uniform pricing policy is implemented for all categories of users. However, a multi-pricing policy for transponders is under the consideration of the Government as INSAT systems transponders are utilized for non-profit purposes viz. Governmental, societal, strategic as well as for commercial purposes.
- (d) Yes Madam. Five Indian DTH operators namely, DISH TV, Bharati Telemedia, SUN DIRECT, Reliance BIG TV, Videocon d2h are utilizing a total of 58.89 transponders (36 MHz equivalent each) capacity sourced from four foreign satellites.
- (e) The steps taken by ISRO to augment the INSAT system capacity to meet the transponder demand including DTH services are – (i) Building standardized 3 ton capacity communication satellites on priority; (ii) development of high-throughput/high power 6 ton class communication satellites; (iii) development of advanced Ka band communication satellite with multi-beam technology and (iv) coordination of additional orbital slots and frequency.