

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2635  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018**

**AUCTION OF CHANNELS**

**2635. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN**

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

- (a) whether Government has approved the auction of 683 channels covering 236 cities;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the race for this would mostly be concentrated in smaller towns of India;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that most of the metros are already saturated with frequencies available to private bidders; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING,  
{COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}**

(a) to (d) On 20.12.2017 Govt. has approved e-auction of 683 channels covering 236 cities which includes 175 cities having population above 1 lakh and up to 3 lakh besides 10 cities in border areas of J&K and NE States having population up to 1 lakh as per census 2001. At present, no channel out of the 9 channels allocated in each of the metro cities i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata is available for auction.