

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3818
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, APRIL 03, 2025

**REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN SATELLITE BROADBAND
PROVIDERS**

3818. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of satellites of ISRO currently operates for broadband services and the future launch plans;
- (b) the steps being taken to enhance ground infrastructure (antennas, terminals) for satellite-based internet in border areas, tribal regions and remote islands;
- (c) the manner in which Government plans to reduce India's dependency on foreign satellite broadband providers;
- (d) whether there are any collaborations between ISRO and private Indian companies to develop a homegrown alternative to Starlink; and
- (e) whether there will be any restrictions on foreign entities owning and operating broadband satellite networks in Indian airspace?

ANSWER

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

- (a) A fleet of 19 communication satellites are operational over India and these satellites support the telecommunications, broadband and broadcasting services as well as societal and strategic communications. The space sector reforms has enabled larger participation of non-governmental entities for building/leasing, owning and operating the satellite systems for providing satellite based services. More than 10 satellite operators have shown interest and applied for authorization for providing the satellite capacity over India. With more players in the market, the entire country would get enhanced satellite capacity and the competitive price advantage.
- (b) The ground infrastructure (antennas, terminals) for satellite broadband are part of the satellite communication services and the licensed satcom / telecom service providers would deploy them.
- (c) Government is encouraging and enabling Indian entities to establish the space assets for broadband services. While NSIL, a CPSE under Department of Space, having plans for deploying new satellites based on user demand, ISRO/DoS have also enabled one Indian private operator with requisite orbit spectrum support to deploy a new broadband satellite.
- (d) No Sir. IN-SPACE has not received any application for establishment and operation of a NGSO satellite constellation similar to Starlink by an Indian operator.
- (e) Yes Sir. Capacity from all foreign satellites can be provisioned for broadband satellite networks in India only after IN-SPACE authorization. The foreign entities owning and operating broadband satellite networks in the space covering India is governed by international regulations and coordinations. Use of such satellites for services over Indian territory is governed by Indian Space Policy, Telecommunications Act and other regulation & guidelines.
