

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:336
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
DTH SERVICES FOR FOREIGN NEWS CHANNELS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;PUNNULAL MOHALE

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

- (a) whether the Government have decided to grant permission to foreign media companies to run news uplinking channels and also provide Direct-To-Home (DTH) services;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have carefully looked into the credentials of the foreign companies before issuing them DTH licence;
- (c) whether the sources of funding of these companies have been checked;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Space T.V. has also applied for DTH services;
- (f) if so, whether there is any link or relation between Space TV and Star TV; and
- (g) if so, the details and facts thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PARTS (a) TO(g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 336 FOR ANSWER ON 13.3.2003.

(a): Applications have been received from wholly owned foreign companies for India focussed 24 hour News channels to be uplinked from India. The extant policy on uplinking of channels from India is at present being re- looked. Necessary consultations have been held with various Ministries and the matter is proposed to be taken up by the Cabinet for consideration.

As per DTH guidelines, applicant company for obtaining DTH license, should be an Indian company registered under Indian Company's Act, 1956. Total foreign equity holding including FDI/NRI/OCB/FII in the applicant company can not exceed 49%. Within the foreign equity, the FDI component can not exceed 20%.

(b), (c) & (d): Licenses for DTH service will be granted only on fulfillment of laid down eligibility criteria and compliance with various terms and conditions prescribed in this regard..

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f) & (g): It has been informed by Space TV Private Limited that STAR TV has evinced interest in participating as equity shareholders in Space TV. For the present equity of Rs. 10.01 crore has been put in by individuals in the employment of Star TV. Further, Space TV has informed that Star TV will support and assist Space TV in the execution and management of the DTH project and has agreed to provide its expertise in the management of Pay TV platforms to Space TV.