

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2683

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004

REVIEW OF DTH OPERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

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

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed the Union Government and TRAI to review DTH operations and guidelines and bring fool proof technological solution to stop transmission facilitation in accessing anti- national messaging and porn channels to DTH subscribers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DTH subscriber can also buy a conditional access module card from the gray market and the system can be misused by terrorist organisations for secret/anti-national messaging also; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) & (b): The Andhra Pradesh High Court has only passed interim orders on a Public Interest Litigation petition filed before it. The matter is currently sub judice.

(c) & (d): A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition was filed before the Delhi High Court, expressing concerns regarding the possible misuse of DTH service for viewing pornographic channels and its susceptibility to misuse for secret/anti national messaging. The matter was examined in the Ministry in the month of August 2004 and the concerns raised in the PIL were discussed in a meeting convened by Secretary (I&B) with the representatives of the concerned Ministries. It was further decided to constitute a Committee under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Broadcasting) in this Ministry to examine various possibilities of breach of security through messaging particularly in the context of situation in J&K and North East. This committee examined the security concerns and concluded that the Government could set up its own monitoring station for the purpose of monitoring not only the DTH services but also the satellite beams receivable in India. Accordingly, Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under this Ministry has been asked to prepare a detailed proposal.