

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1358

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010

LICENCE FOR DTH SERVICES

Choudhary Shri Harish;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Pandey Saroj;Rama Devi Smt. ;Singh Shri Ijyraj

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

- (a) the number of companies which had applied and got licence to operate Direct to Home (DTH) Services;
- (b) the details of terms and conditions and guidelines laid down by the Government for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has signed any agreement to operate the said services;
- (d) so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the DTH service operators/provider who do not follows the prescribed guidelines; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

- (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has granted licence to 6 companies to operate DTH services.
- (b) to (e): The Government, vide order dated 15.3.2001, issued detailed guidelines for operating Direct to Home (DTH) Service in India. The Guidelines, inter-alia, specify the eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, license agreement (Form B), etc. The document is available on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. The agreement of the DTH licensee is signed between the licensee and the Ministry, and the DTH licensee holder has to abide by the terms and conditions laid down in the DTH licence agreement. Violation of guidelines has been reported in instances specifically with regard to carriage of DD Channels which are mandatorily required to be carried by the DTH operators as per the agreement of the DTH license. The DTH operators are issued notices for such violation and DTH operators have reported compliance on receipt of such notices. Another issue relates to the interoperability of Set Top Boxes and the issue has been taken up with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.