

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1582
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
EXPANSION OF DTH PLATFORM
Guddu Shri Premchandra;Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government/ Prasar Bharati have approved the proposal to increase the capacity of the Doordarshan (DD) free-to-air Direct-to-Home (DTH) platform to accommodate new/ more channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any technical upgradation would be required in the set top box for viewing the said channels;
- (d) if so, whether all channels would be free/ paid;
- (e) if so, the details of the channels which have shown interest to access the DTH platform of DD ; and
- (f) the time by which such channels are likely to be viewed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

- (a) & (b) Prasar Bharti has informed that Doordarshan's DTH platform, at present, has capacity of 59 Standard Definition (SD) TV channels. A Plan scheme for upgradation of Doordarshan's DTH platform to 97 TV channels has been approved by the Government. Prasar Bharati Board has recently approved further expansion of Doordarshan's DTH platform to 150 channels.
- (c) Present viewers will continue to receive the existing channels through their STBs. However, new Set Top Box (DVB-S2 / MPEG-4 compatible) will be required to receive the additional channels along with currently available channels.
- (d) All channels will be available free to the viewers and no subscription would be payable.
- (e) Details of channels which have shown their interest in DD Direct Plus Platform is enclosed at Annexure I.
- (f) These channels are likely to be viewed after the expansion of DTH bouquet and after successful bidding in e-auction.