

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3002

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011

INTER OPERABILITY IN DTH SERVICE

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether major Direct-To-Home (DTH) operators are not allowing technical inter-operability that facilitate consumers shift from one service provider to another without having to reinvest in a new set top box and a dish;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the DTH service providers have not offered three options to the consumers as specified by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to regulate DTH services in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(e) The Direct-to-Home (DTH) license conditions at Articles 7.1 and 7.2 of the DTH guidelines of this Ministry provide that DTH operator should ensure that the supplied Set-top-Boxes (STBs) are based on open architecture (non-proprietary), which will ensure technical compatibility and effective interoperability among different DTH service providers and should conform to the specifications as laid down by the Government from time to time. It also provides that the Licensee shall ensure subscriber's interests through a Conditional Access System (CAS), which is compatible with an open Architecture (non- proprietary) Set Top Box. At present, none of the STBs provided by DTH operators are interoperable, primarily due to the fact that DTH operators are using different technologies and standards for signal compression and transmission.

Further, TRAI has issued quality of service regulations for DTH services namely "The Direct to Home Broadcasting Services (Standard of Quality of Service and Redressal of Grievances)

Regulations, dated 31st August 2007" as amended from time to time, wherein the DTH operators are mandated to offer the three options viz. Outright Purchase, Hire Purchase and Rental Schemes for their Customer Premise Equipments (CPE). These regulations provide exit options for the subscriber in case the subscriber intends to opt for the services of the other DTH operator.As per the performance monitoring reports submitted by all the six private DTH operators to TRAI for the quarter ending September 2011, it has been reported that they are offering all the three options viz.Outright Purchase, Hire Purchase and Rental Schemes to the subscriber as per provisions of the regulation.