

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7585

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012

LICENCES FOR DTH SERVICES

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) the names of Indian and Foreign private sector companies which have been issued licences to operate Direct to Home (DTH) services;
- (b) the details of the terms and conditions/guidelines laid down by the Government for issuing licences for DTH services;
- (c) whether the Government accrues revenue/income from the said companies;
- (d) if so, the total revenue/income accrued by the Government from these companies during each of the last three years and the current year, company-wise
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the hardware cost and carriage fee collected from various TV channels form a part of such revenue; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry has issued license to six Indian private companies, namely, M/s Dish TV India Ltd., M/s. Tata Sky Ltd., M/s. Sun Direct TV Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Reliance BIG TV Ltd., M/s. Bharti Telemedia Ltd. and M/s. Bharat Business Channel Ltd. for providing DTH services in the country. DTH services are governed by DTH Guidelines and terms and conditions issued by the Ministry on 15.3.2001, as amended from time to time. The detailed guidelines are available on the Ministry's website: www.mib.nic.in.

(c) & (d): As per the Article 3 of the license agreement, the private DTH operators are required to pay the license fee within one month of the end of the financial year. The company-wise revenue received during, 2008-09, 2009-2010, and 2010-11 and 2011-12 is at Annexure.

(e): Does not arise.

(f) & (g) : The license fee collected by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from DTH operators is based on the Gross Revenue, as defined in the Article 3 of the Schedule to the DTH License Agreement. As per this definition, revenue earned from the sale of hardware such as Set Top Box and by way of charging carriage fee is required to be included for the purpose of calculation of annual license fee. The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has, however, in its orders dated 26.8.2008 and 28.5.2010, applied the principle of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for determination of annual license fee. The matter is presently sub-judice with TDSAT as per Supreme Court order dated 11.10.2011.