

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4050
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
FDI IN DTH SERVICES
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Direct to Home (DTH) television services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the increase in FDI in DTH television services could pose security threat to the nation;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has received any representation in this regard; and
- (e) if so the present status of the proposal to increase FDI in DTH television services?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): On a reference made by the Government on 11.12.2007, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 26.04.2008 submitted the recommendations on foreign investment limits for broadcasting sector. While recommending raising of FDI levels TRAI considered that

- (i) instead of having differing limits for various sub-sectors of broadcasting, a uniformity of approach is required depending on it being a carriage service or a content service
- (ii) convergence of technologies in the Telecom and Broadcasting services has made it necessary for a level playing field with respect to FDI in the two sectors and
- (iii) Foreign investment in Carriage services like DTH requiring higher level of investments should be 74%. The details of the recommendations of TRAI are available on their website

(www.trai.gov.in) .

(c) & (d): Representations from M/s Dish TV India Ltd., a licensee of DTH service, were received alleging a possible security threat by way of select messaging and the like and opposing the increase in FDI in DTH service. The concerns expressed in relation to national security will also be kept in view as and when a final view is taken.

(e): In view of the Press Note No. 2 and 4 (2009 Series) issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in February 2009 rationalizing calculation of indirect foreign investment in sectors attracting FDI caps including the broadcasting sector, the Ministry has on 30.9.2009 requested the TRAI to revisit the recommendations in the light of these press notes.