

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4543
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
DOORDARSHAN DTH SERVICE
Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make the Direct to Home (DTH) service of Doordarshan more competitive as compared to other DTH service providers, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to include some more new channels in the DTH service from January 2014 onwards but so far no such new channels have been introduced the DTH service and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for providing good quality modern set top boxes and Dish antennas to its DTH customers and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE(Retd.))

- (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan's Direct-To-Home (DTH) platform, DD Direct+ has been rebranded as 'DD FREE DISH' now. The trademark has been registered and it highlights its unique proposition of being free from any monthly subscription/ payment for lifetime. It has placed a large number of popular channels on its free-to- air DTH service.
- (b) Doordarshan is operating its free to air DTH service with 59 TV channels in its bouquet. Scheme of expansion of DTH platform from 59 to 97 TV channels was approved in 11th Plan. All equipment for upgradation of DTH platform from 59 to 97 TV channels have been installed. Conditional Access System (CAS) for addressability of set top boxes is yet to be finalized. The expanded capacity would be received by viewers with appropriate set top box.
- (c) Doordarshan is not involved in manufacturing/ marketing of set top boxes. Indian Standard for Digital Set Top Boxes for DTH services has been framed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Department of Electronics and Information Technology has issued circular to make it mandatory to have BIS certification for all set top boxes before selling it in Indian market to ensure better compliance to quality standard.