

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
TELECAST OF FREE TO AIR CHANNELS .

2848

Smt. Viplove Thakur

Will the Minister of COALINFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has allowed private Direct to Home (DTH) service operators to telecast its free-to-air channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware that the said operators are charging money from the customers for viewing the said channels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI C. M. JATUA)

(a) to (d): Yes Sir. Article 7.8 of the DTH license conditions provides that the licensee shall carry or include in his DTH service the TV channels which have been notified for mandatory and compulsory carriage as per provisions of section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 as amended, except for the regional TV channels. The Article further provides that the licensee shall carry other channels of Prasar Bharati not covered under this clause, on most favourable financial terms offered to any other channel. In DTH services, all TV channels, whether Free to Air or Pay, are receivable by the subscriber through a Set Top Box only. The TV channels, both Free to Air and Pay, are encrypted and distributed directly to the subscribers through satellite, by DTH operators. In doing so, the DTH operator incurs expenditure for providing TV channels to the subscribers. Generally, in the subscription packages offered by DTH operators, there are both Free to Air and Pay channels.