GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1508

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021)

VIEWERSHIP ON DOORDARSHAN FREE DISH

1508. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) whether the Ministry had received complaints alleging that some private Networks circumvented Prasar Bharati's auction system to gain viewership on Doordarshan Free Dish in 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry dismissed or ignored or "set aside" these complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the reasons for doing so;

(e) the estimated loss to the exchequer in terms of fees not received from said Media Networks for access to Doordarshan Free Dish; and

(f) the measures being taken to collect those fees from these Media Networks?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (f): Doordarshan (DD) Free Dish is a Free to Air Direct-to-Home platform. Reference was received from Prasar Bharati regarding reception of some channels of the private broadcasters on the Set Top Boxes of DD Free Dish which were not part of channels downlinkable from DD Free Dish through the auction process. This matter has been examined and it was observed that the situation has arisen due to co-location of the signals and non-mandatory requirement for encryption of signals of Free-To-Air TV channels while being uplinked to a teleport.

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