

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3245
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018)**

DOORDARSHAN FREE DISH

3245. DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:

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

- (a) the number of free channels presently available on Doordarshan free dish at present;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to provide free dish of Doordarshan to the common man and to increase the number of its channels; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to earn income through advertisements by increasing the number of television channels and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING**

{COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that presently 72 free-to air TV channels and 39 radio channels are available on DD Free Dish DTH Platform.

As part of the approved schemes of Government of India, 66,000 DTH sets have been distributed in tribal, remote & border areas.

Government sanctioned a scheme under 12th Plan for further expansion of Doordarshan's DTH platform upto 250 TV channels which also adds to the prospects of revenue generation through advertisement, through additional channels.

However, the revenue model of DD Free Dish has limitations and the Ministry advised Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan) that the proposed e-auction be kept in abeyance. Doordarshan offers a channel for as low as Rs.6-8 crores whereas as per newspaper reports including in The Tribune dated 11/10/2017 with the title "DD to review auction of slots to Private Channels on free dish" a private channel earns between Rs.500-700 crores.

In a related matter wherein private channels approached Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), TDSAT's Interim Order dated 27.10.2017 advised the Central Government to carry out a comprehensive review of the policy on DD Free Dish.
