

liberalized to make them more facilitative. As against twelve weeks taken earlier, permission to shoot is now given in three weeks where shooting is in non-sensitive areas. Further, procedure for script clearance has been streamlined and requirement for attachment of a liaison officer with the shooting team and preview of the completed film is not mandatory.

Private players for DTH services

4112. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open up Doordarshan's DTH to private players;

(b) if so, the rules and regulations laid down for the purpose especially to exclude uncalled for obscenity, crime and violence from DTH; and

(c) whether any private players have applied for such DTH services, if so, the details of the applications and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doss not arise.

(c) For operation of Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting service [other than Ku band transmission of Doordarshan], five applications have been received so far of which M/s A.S.C. Enterprises have been granted the licence.

The other four applicants, whose applications are under consideration, are:

1. Essel, Shyam Communications Limited
2. Space TV. Private Ltd.
3. Sun Direct TV. Private Ltd., and
4. Noida Software Technology Park Ltd.

DTH project of DD

4113. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

[2 May, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether any assessment was made on the success or otherwise DTH project of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements of the project and the number of users of DTH;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Doordarshan and the income generated; and

(d) the rationale behind to carry private TV Channels on DTH without carriage fee?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharti has informed that an internal assessment made by them, based on the news reports and market sources, indicates the sale of an estimated 2 million receiver systems since the launch of DD Direct+ service on 16th December, 2004.

(c) Rs. 34.26 crore has been spent so far. There is presently no income generation from the service.

(d) The rationale is to enhance the popularity of this service and make it broad based catering to different categories of viewers.

Undesirable telecasts by cable network

4114. SHRI T.T.V DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a lot of undesirable telecasts, particularly with regard to children are carried through cable television network;

(b) whether Government would launch a cable network in the country and carry only censored channels/programmes that could be viewed by all including children; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider inviting private operators to launch such cable network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Concerns have been expressed from time to time about telecasts unsuitable for children. All programmes and advertisements carried in the cable service are required to adhere to the Programme Code