

There are six pay DTH services in the Indian market, competing with each other and also with cable TV system. In addition to these pay DTH services, free to air DTH services of Doordarshan are also available to the Indian masses. The number of DTH service providers in India is much higher than most other countries. Thus, there are adequate options available to the subscribers within the DTH platforms as well as that of other platforms too.

TRAI has also issued regulations on the quality of service (QoS) for the DTH services on 31st August, 2007 and further amended it on 12th March, 2009, so as to protect the interests of the DTH subscribers. These regulations, *inter-alia*, include, option for consumers to select STBs through outright purchase or hire purchase or rent, obligation of DTH operator to repair and maintenance of STBs, prior notice to consumer for discontinuing a channel or for disconnecting, 6 months protection to subscribers against any tariff hike by the DTH operator or change in composition of subscription package, provision of 24x7 call centers for redressing the complaints, and well defined time frame for addressing the complains of DTH consumers. It is mandatory for all the DTH operators to comply with DTH QoS Regulations to protect the interest of the subscribers. Detailed QoS is available on the website of TRAI at <http://www.trai.gov.in>.

Construction of community study centres

*109. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sachar Committee had raised concerns over the fact that a substantial proportion of households in urban settlements live in one room accommodation and it is absolutely necessary to create local community study centres for students so that they can spend a few hours to concentrate on their studies;

(b) whether there is any Government scheme to construct community study centres in urban slums; and

(c) whether the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds could be utilized for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy has instructed all States/UTs on 30.08.2007 that the existing schools and community buildings could be used in the evenings as study centres and existing teachers could be engaged on payment of honorarium to tutor willing students including girls, who could be accompanied by guardians. Departments dealing with metropolitan and municipal development could be directed suitably to make such facilities available. Such facilities should also be kept in mind in the designing of future cities and town plans.

(c) The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) fund can be utilized for construction of community study centres for students in urban slums, provided such assets are open to community at large without any restrictions in view of the objective of the MPLADS guidelines as the main objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies.

Electoral reforms

*110. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has recommended for early electoral reforms as there is large scale corruption in the existing electoral system and the role of criminals and money power is rampant;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that the law breakers are not allowed to become law makers;

(c) whether any draft legislation in this regard is being brought before the Parliament during the Monsoon Session; and

(d) whether Government is also in favour of making compulsory maintenance of accounts by the political parties and the audit thereof by the agencies specified by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The need for electoral reforms has been engaging the attention of the Election Commission of India and the Government in the recent past. The Election Commission of India had also made certain recommendations in this regard. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Commission as well as those of certain other Committees/Commissions which had gone into the said issue in the past, a Core-Committee was constituted on the 1st October, 2010 under the Chairmanship of an Additional Solicitor General, with a view to impacting comprehensive electoral reforms. The talking points of the Committee included (i) Criminalisation of Politics; (ii) Funding of Elections; (iii) Conduct and Better Management of Elections; (iv) Regulation of Political Parties; (v) Audit and Finances of Political Parties; (vi) Review of Anti-Defection Law. The Committee under the aegis of Legislative Department and in co-sponsorship of the Election Commission of India conducted seven regional consultations at Bhopal, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Guwahati, wherein the stakeholders have been consulted, who *inter- alia* included leaders and workers of the political parties, legislators, legal luminaries, representatives