

[23 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) the number of Direct to Home (DTH) applications received so far with the names of the companies;

(b) whether all the applicants have deposited the entry fee of Rs. 10crores.

(c) whether approval of FIPB and other agencies have been cleared in all the cases; and

(d) if so, the reasons for withholding the Letter of Intent (LoI) of the companies who have fulfilled all the norms/guidelines and the steps being taken to issue LoI?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Four applications for starting Direct-to-Home (DTH) services have been received from:—

1. M/s Space TV Ltd.
2. M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd.
3. M/s Essel Shyam Communications Ltd.
4. M/s Noida Software Technology Park Ltd.

Of these two companies namely, M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd. and Space T.V. Ltd. have deposited the initial non-refundable entry fee of Rs. 10 crore. M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd. has been granted the licence for DTH on 16th Sept. 2003. and it has launched its service from 2nd Oct. 2003.

(c) FIPB approval in respect of restructuring of foreign equity is to be obtained by the applicant-company concerned directly from the Ministry of Finance as and when required under the FIPB policy guidelines. In respect of Space TV and Essel Shyam Communications Ltd. clearances from the Departments concerned have been obtained.

(d) The DTH application of Space T.V. Ltd. is currently under process in the Ministry. However, no precise time-limit can be indicated for issue of Letter of Intent to the application-company.

Demands of Cable Operators

2022. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

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

- (a) whether he had received any memorandum from the cable TV

operators regarding appointment of an independent broadcasting regulatory authority and implementation of Conditional Access System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Cable TV operators have also threatened to effect hefty hike in service-charges throughout the country from the next months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cable Operators' Federation of India (COUF), National Cable Television Association (NCTA) and the Cable Network Association (NCA), in their joint representation, have requested, *inter alia*, for the following:

(i) The implementation of CAS;

(ii) Enactment of Broadcasting Legislation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The TRAI is seized of the issue.

World Bank help to broadcasters

2023. SHRIMATI JAMANADEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY

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

(a) whether World Bank is planning to work out with the broadcasters including those from India, to spread the "development" message;

(b) if so, whether Bank has clarified that it is not providing direct funding to broadcasters but there is possibility of helping broadcasters with some of its existing resources; and

(c) what are the points that the World Bank is considering to support broadcasters and whether Government have examined these points?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received from the World Bank in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.