

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1265

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006

FREE CHANNELS UNDER DTH SCHEME

Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

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

- (a) whether the Government is endeavouring to cover more and more free channels under the Direct To Home (DTH) service and to cover private channels under free channels' category;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is materialising the scheme for providing Dish Receiver Units; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) and (b) : The Government has already permitted Doordarshan to raise the number of T.V. channels in its DTH bouquet from thirty-three to fifty, thereby augmenting the base of more number of Free-to-Air private T.V. channels. Prasar Bharati has also started examining the technical and commercial feasibility to further expand the capacity of DTH platform to cover one hundred channels.

(c) and (d) : Doordarshan has so far installed 8,465 DTH receive units free of cost for demonstration purpose in uncovered villages in the states of Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, North-East Region, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal.