



सत्यमेव जयते

राजीव अग्रवाल, भा.दू.से.

RAJEEV AGRAWAL, I.T.S.

सचिव/Secretary

भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण

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F. NO. 24-01/2013-B&CS

Dated 11th September, 2013

Sh. Bimal Julka,
Secretary,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
'A Wing', Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi -110001.

Sub:Extension of DTH licence period - reg.

Dear Sh. Julka,

Please refer to your D.O. letter No. 8/3/2013-BP&L dated 3rd September 2013, addressed to Chairman, TRAI, wherein the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has sought recommendations of TRAI on certain terms and conditions for renewal of DTH licences, including an interim arrangement, since the first licence is due to expire on 30th September 2013.

2. Surely, MIB was well aware that the DTH licences would start expiring from 30th September 2013 onwards. What is more, we are given to understand that the first DTH licensee, M/s Dish TV India Ltd., has been pursuing the case for renewal of their licence with the Ministry since April 2013. However, MIB chose to refer the matter to TRAI only in September 2013 and that too less than 4 weeks before the first licence is due to expire. MIB knows full well that TRAI has to follow an exhaustive public consultative process before giving its recommendations. The time left now is simply not sufficient for TRAI to conduct full consultation process and give its recommendations by 30th September 2013.

3. Protection of the interests of the consumers is one of the mandates of TRAI. Accordingly, considering the large subscriber base of the said licensee, the Authority is of the view that, during the interim period, MIB may consider allowing the said DTH licensee to continue its operations/services on the existing terms and conditions subject to the following:

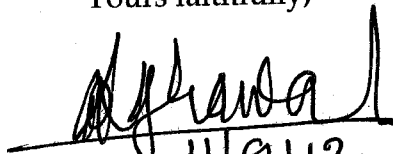
- a. The said DTH operator shall renew the existing bank guarantee.
- b. The Government shall take a suitable undertaking from the said DTH operator to ensure that once the final policy in this regard is laid down by the Government, the said DTH operator will comply with that policy for the interim period also. Any financial obligations arising from the change in policy shall also be honoured.

4. In accordance with provisions of the TRAI Act 1997, we shall start the consultation process immediately. However, it will take time before a consultation paper is released for stakeholders comments.

5. As per the practice, a copy of this letter is being placed on the website of TRAI www.trai.gov.in

with best regards,

Yours faithfully,


11/9/13
(Rajeev Agrawal)