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D.O. No. 3/1/2014-BP&L

भारत सरकार  
सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय  
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING  
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI - 110001

31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014

बिमल जुल्का

सचिव

BIMAL JULKA

SECRETARY

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सत्यमेव जयते

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, ICT has immense potential in providing high quality interactive modules in the higher education sector in the country. This is expected to be a major intervention in ensuring access and equity in higher education. In the fast changing technological advancements, it is the need of hour to optimally exploit latest technologies to meet deficiencies in spread of education. Transmission of educational channels on DTH platform is an important technology which is capable of delivering educational content free of cost to students in universities and colleges in far flung areas of the country.

2. Presently, several State Governments are operating educational DTH channels as part of the Edusat programme under Satellite Communication (SATCOM) policy framework of the Department of Space (DoS). In addition to one-way TV broadcast, Edusat also provides a wide range of educational delivery modes like interactive TV, video conferencing, computer conferencing, web-based instructions, etc. It is understood that except UP, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur, all other States/UTs are implementing Educast programme for non commercial educational purpose on pilot mode.

3. The Authority in its recommendations dated 28.12.2012 had, inter alia, recommended that Central Government Ministries, Central / State Government Departments, Central / State Government owned companies, Central / State Government undertakings, Joint Venture of the Central / State Government and the private sector and Central / State Government funded entities should not be allowed to enter into the business of broadcasting and distribution of TV Channels. However, these recommendations are silent on the existing State Governments' Edusat programme. There is no clarity as to whether Edusat programme fall under broadcasting in strict sense.


4. It may be appreciated that the delivery of educational contents by DTH has the potential to revolutionize educational delivery across the length and breadth of the country. The three important aspects of education policy viz. access, equity and quality could be served well by providing connectivity to all colleges and universities and providing high quality e-content free of cost to students in the country.

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5. The issue of use of satellite communication on non-commercial basis was discussed at the highest level in the Government. It was suggested that a reference may be made to the Authority in this regard. In view of this, Authority may kindly furnish its recommendations on use of DTH by the Central and State Governments and guidelines thereon. Recommendations of the Authority may be finished under section 11(1)(a)(i)&(ii) of TRAI Act, 1997.

*With regards.*

Yours sincerely,

  
(Bimal Julka)

**Dr. Rahul Khullar**  
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