

Q.1 Do you perceive the need for introduction of Digital terrestrial transmission in multiple broadcasting distribution platforms? Please provide your comments with justification.

Ans. : Yes. Terrestrial TV broadcasting has got its own relevance. It may be considered as a strong contender in multiple broadcasting distribution platforms. Any country cannot afford to disband terrestrial TV broadcasting and depend solely on Satellite broadcasting (DTH/Cable distribution) modes. Furthermore, DTT is capable to cater to mobile receivers which is not practicable through other modes.

Q.2 If yes, what should be the appropriate strategy for DTT implementation across the country? Please provide your comments with justification.

Ans. : a) As a first step, country should finalise adoption of an ITU Recommended standard. Since, Doordarshan, Country's public broadcaster has already adopted DVB-T₂, it would be appropriate if this standard is mandated for adoption throughout the country.

b) It is understood that Doordarshan has its own strategy for DTT implementation across the country. It would, however be appropriate to aim for countrywide coverage with 4 (four) multiplexes of DTT. This would result sufficiently large numbers of programme channels in order to provide viewers alternative to satellite channels for fixed reception besides number of channels for mobile reception.

Q.3 Should digital terrestrial television broadcasting be opened for participation by the private players? Please provide your comments with justification.

Ans. : Yes. Participation by private players would provide choice to viewers as is the case with DTH and Cable TV. Furthermore, participation by private players would accelerate the rollout of DTT.

Q.4 Which model or a combination thereof for Digital terrestrial transmission will be most suitable in Indian context? Please furnish your comments with justification.

Ans. : As already stated against Q2, DVB-T2 is a versatile standard and can be deployed for SD/HD reception by both fixed and mobile receivers. It may be appropriate to provide adequate coverages for both fixed and mobile reception throughout the country.

Q.5 What should be the approach for implementing DTT network (MFN/SFN/Hybrid)? Please furnish your comments with justification

Ans. : The selection of approach in terms of SFN/MFN is a subject of details for network planning and can be addressed once the basic objective of requirements for coverages (fixed/mobile), area segmentation, numbers of operator etc. are decided.

Q.6 What should be the criteria for arriving at optimum size of DTT multiplex at any location? Please furnish your comments with justification.

Ans. : As already provided at ans. (b) against Q2, as of now, optimum size of multiplex may be taken as four.

Q.7 How many digital multiplex per DTT operator should be planned for metro, major cities, urban and rural areas and why? Please furnish your comments with justification.

Ans. : Once a policy decision for implementation of DTT (say, DVB-T2) is taken by the Government, the rollout need to be planned in phases. Phasing is required to be worked out judiciously considering that needed multiplex can not be implemented across the entire country in one stroke. In order to work out phasing, it is necessary that a policy decision on permitted number of players, coverage area, modes of service (fixed/mobile) is made available. It may only be taken as a general guideline that numbers of digital multiplex shall gradually increase from rural areas to metro cities.

Q.8 What should be most appropriate frequency band as per National Frequency Allocation Plan 2011 for implementation of Digital terrestrial transmission including mobile TV? Give your comments with justification.

Ans. : UHF bands IV and V are the most appropriate band for DTT. Eco-system for operation in these bands are fully developed.

Q.9 Should spectrum be exclusively earmarked for roll out of DTT services? If so, what should be the quantum considering the broadcasting sector requirement in totality?

Ans. : Digital dividend shall only be available after countrywide roll out of DTT. During intervening period, at least a total of 30 channels, i.e., up to channel no. 64 (822 MHz) may be considered. This may be taken as an ad-hoc value since broadcasting sector's requirements have not been firmed up in totality and that Doordarshan's complete projection is not available. A reference is also drawn to answers against Q5 & Q7 for deciding the exact quantum.

Q.10 What should be the roadmap for digitization of terrestrial TV network in the country? Please provide your comments with justification.

Ans. : The Government may consider defining phasing plans and policy guidelines.

Q.11 What should be the Analog Switch off date(s) for the terrestrial TV channels in context with the suggested roadmap for DTT implementation? Please provide your comments with justification.

Ans. : Switch off of analogue transmission may be considered once the digital receiver penetration reaches 80% mark.

Q.12 Stakeholders may also provide their comments on any other issue

Ans. : Nil