Dear Shri Khullar,

As you are aware, the “Guidelines for obtaining license for providing Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting service in India” were issued on 15.03.2001. The Ministry has so far granted licenses to six companies to operate DTH services in the country. The first DTH license was granted to M/s Dish TV India Pvt. Ltd. on 16th September, 2003.

2. As per clause 2.1 of Article 2 of DTH guidelines, DTH license is valid for a period of 10 years from the date of issue of Wireless Operational License to the DTH operators. The validity period of license of DTH operation of 10 years of one of the licensees is coming to end on 30th September, 2013.

3. The Guidelines for DTH License are silent on the course of action to be adopted after expiry of 10 years. In this regard, following issues entail consideration of the Authority:

- Whether the entry fee of Rs.10 crores is required to be paid again by DTH Company for the extension of validity period of DTH license? If not, then whether no entry fee is required or a modified entry fee is required to be levied. In case of requirement of modified entry fee, what should be the amount of entry fee?
- Whether the period of extension of validity of DTH license should be for another period of 10 years?
- Whether the bank guarantee of Rs.40 crores is to be renewed for the entire period of the license again on extension of validity period of license?

4. In case the recommendations of the Authority take time, the Ministry may be advised as to what should be the interim arrangement for continuation of services of M/s Dish TV India Pvt. Ltd. beyond September, 2013.

5. The Authority may furnish its recommendations as per Section 11(1)(a)(ii) of the TRAI Act, 1997.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Rahul Khullar
Chairman
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg (Old Minto) New Delhi-110 002.