GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1532 ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010 HEADEND IN THE SKY SERVICES Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar

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

(a) the number of cable networks digitised after implementation of Headend in the Sky (HITS) services in the country;

(b) whether HITS service operators are facing tariff and content related problems to start the services;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to resolve such issues?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. JATUA)

(a): At present, there is no operator providing Headend in the Sky (HITS) services in the country.

(b)and (c): Yes, Sir. One of the existing HITS permission holder M/s. Dish TV India Ltd. in its representation dated 3.3.2010 had, interalia, raised the issue of absence of any tariff regime due to which broadcasters /content providers have either refused to provide their content or were asking for exorbitant amount.

(d): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was on 10.12.2009 requested to revisit the interconnection regulations, tariff orders and quality of service regulations etc. in the light of policy on HITS services notified by the Government. Further on receipt of representations from existing HITS operators, a reference has been made on 18.03.2010 to TRAI for furnishing recommendations on the policy issues raised. TRAI has not so far submitted its recommendations. However, it has issued tariff regulations covering HITS services on 21.07.2010. The details of tariff order are available at the website (www.trai.gov.in) of TRAI.