

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1599
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010
AMENDMENT IN CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS REGULATION ACT
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether proposals have been received from the State Governments including Maharashtra to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to make it mandatory for the cable operators to get themselves registered and empowering action against cable operators defaulting payment of entertainment tax;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the said proposals are pending with the Government;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which such proposals are likely to be accepted/rejected by the Government;
- (f) whether the recommendations received from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on restructuring of cable services in the country, have been cleared;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefore and the time by which it is likely to be cleared;
- (h) whether the Government proposes to specify uniform MRP for cable connection to be charged in the country; and?
- (i) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) The proposal dated 20.10.2006 of the State Government of Maharashtra was received by the Ministry vide their letter No.LAA0805/C.R.236/T-1 dated 17th May 2008 seeking certain amendment in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

(b) to (g): The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 at present does not provide for cancellation of registration. There are some other deficiencies in the Cable Act which needs to be rectified. The proposal of the State Government of Maharashtra also seeks an amendment in the Act to enable the registering authority to refuse registration and renewal of registration in cases of non-payment of entertainment duty. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has on 25.07.2008 submitted comprehensive recommendations on restructuring of cable services to the Ministry. The recommendations, inter-alia, provide for migration to a system of licensing from the present system of registration with clear terms and conditions of license and its renewal and also suspension/cancellation of license in case of breach of terms and conditions of license. The documentary proof requirements suggested for grant of license /renewal also include the details of tax payments etc. The Government is in agreement with the TRAI's recommendations in the above context.

The Government is firming up its view on the other recommendations of TRAI which also require amendments to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 so that a comprehensive proposal can be taken to Parliament. No time limit can be prescribed as such policy issues require large scale consultations with stakeholders and other Ministries/Departments of the Government.

- (h) TRAI has informed that there is no proposal to specify uniform MRP to be charged for cable connection in the country.
- (i) Does not arise.