

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:164  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011  
AMENDMENT IN CABLE TV NETWORKS (REGULATION) ACT, 1995  
Khair Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended restructuring of cable service in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received proposal from the Government of Maharashtra seeking amendments to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation ) Act, 1995;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 164 FOR ANSWER ON 8.3.2011.

(a) to (e) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in its recommendation of "Restructuring of Cable TV Services" has given a comprehensive roadmap for restructuring cable TV networks in the country. It recommended that the present system of registration cable TV operators should be replaced by a licensing framework. It has also recommended a separate licensing provision for Multi System Operators (MSOs) with a view to recognize them as a distinct entity from cable TV operators. The proposed licensing framework for Local Cable Operators and MSOs covers eligibility criteria for obtaining LCO or MSO license. Service area, licensing authority, procedure for award of license, renewal process, migration procedure, complaint redressal mechanism, billing procedure, quality of service, etc. Detailed recommendations are available on the website of TRAI ([WWW.traai.in](http://WWW.traai.in)). These recommendations are under the consideration of the Ministry. In its recommendations, TRAI has also proposed setting deadlines for full conversion of analog cable operators to digital cable operators. However, TRAI in its subsequent recommendations on "Implementation of Digital addressable Cable System in India" has recommended that the migration to digital addressable cable TV system be implemented with sunset date for Analogue Cable TV Services as 31st December, 2013, in four phases. The Ministry, while agreeing to the recommendations of TRAI, proposed a slightly modified timeline extending upto 31st March, 2015 in view of the enormity of the task. The TRAI in its response dated 23rd February, 2011 has recommended revised timelines for implementation of digital addressable cable TV system in India where the timeframe for final phase has been extended upto 30th June, 2014. The Ministry is in the process of taking a final view in the matter.

The TRAI, in its recommendations on "Restructuring of Cable TV services" has also made recommendations for amendments to certain provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 some of which are similar to the proposal for amendment submitted by State Government of Maharashtra. As and when a decision is taken to put in place a licensing framework by amending the Cable Act, the issue raised by the State Government would also be taken into consideration.