

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:51

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

DIGITISATION OF CABLE TV

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make transmission in digital mode mandatory in various cities of the country having more than ten lakh population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof State-wise and location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a law/amend the cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 before putting in place such a system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) The scheme of digitalization in the country will be implemented in four phases. In the first phase four metros would be covered while cities having more than ten lakh population would be covered in the second phase. The Government on 11.11.2011 has notified that it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit or re-transmit programmes of any channel in an encrypted form through a digital addressable system. In this regard, a table indicating the city, town or area in respective State or the Union Territory and the time line within which it has to be implemented has been indicated. The details in this regard are as under:

Phase Area State/UT Date Specified

Phase-II 1. Bangalore Karnataka 31st March, 2013

2. Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh
3. Ahmedabad Gujarat
4. Pune Maharashtra
5. Surat Gujarat
6. Kanpur Uttar Pradesh
7. Jaipur Rajasthan
8. Lucknow Uttar Pradesh
9. Nagpur Maharashtra
10. Patna Bihar
11. Indore Madhya Pradesh
12. Bhopal Madhya Pradesh
13. Thane Maharashtra
14. Ludhiana Punjab
15. Agra Uttar Pradesh
16. Pimpri - Chinchwad Maharashtra
17. Nashik Maharashtra
18. Vadodara Gujarat
19. Faridabad Haryana
20. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh
21. Rajkot Gujarat
22. Meerut Uttar Pradesh
23. Kalyan- Dombivli Maharashtra
24. Varanasi Uttar Pradesh
25. Amritsar Punjab
26. Navi Mumbai Maharashtra
27. Aurangabad Maharashtra
28. Solapur Maharashtra
29. Allahabad Uttar Pradesh
30. Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh
31. Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir

32. Visakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh
33. Ranchi Jharkhand
34. Howrah West Bengal
35. Chandigarh Chandigarh
36. Coimbatore Tamil Nadu
37. Mysore Karnataka
38. Jodhpur Rajasthan

(c)to(e) The Government has on 25th October, 2011 promulgated an Ordinance called the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 2011 introducing amendments to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to implement Digital Addressable System (DAS) as also for better regulation of cable TV sector. The salient features of the amendments, inter-alia, include:

(i) modification in the definition of "cable operator" and "person" to enable Central Government to prescribe eligibility conditions including different levels of FDI limits for registration of different categories of cable operators, including MSOs, Local Cable Operators(LCOs), Independent Cable Operators (ICOs);

(ii) provisions enabling Central Government to prescribe documentation required as also the terms and conditions of registration/renewal, refusal thereof, appeal to Central Government in case of such refusal, and suspension and revocation of registration by Central Government in case of any violation;

(iii) amendment in Section 4A for mandating all channels, including FTA channels, to be provided in encrypted form through DAS from the notified date;

(iv) Provision for empowering TRAI to specify the composition of basic service tier and its price, including a-la-carte tariff for free-to air channels; and

(v) New Provision for granting right of way permission for cable operators on public land.