

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3138
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
AMENDMENT IN CABLE ACT
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

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

(a) whether this Ministry has received any comments from the Ministry of Home Affairs on the proposal of Maharashtra Government to suitably amend the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 to empower the Registering Authority to refuse granting the registration certificate/renewal of the said certificate of those cable operators who have not paid entertainment duty under the State Act and specified the rate of cable connection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such amendment is likely to be made and implemented?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry had received a letter from Government of Maharashtra regarding the issue of non realization of entertainment duty levied on cable operators. The State Government of Maharashtra requested the Ministry to make necessary amendments in the Cable Act enabling the Post and Telegraph Department (Registration Authority) to refuse the grant of Registration or renewal certificate to those cable operators who have not paid the entertainment duty under the State Act. It was brought to the notice that the entertainment duty to be paid by the cable operators is levied on the basis of number of cable connections provided by them and that there is rampant under declaration of cable connections by the cable operators, leading to evasion of entertainment tax in Maharashtra. 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 Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2011 has been brought into force w.e.f 31.12.2011 wherein a provision has been made to empower registering authority to refuse grant of cable registration or its renewal if the application is not accompanied by necessary documents or fees. Moreover the Ministry has vide its notification dated 11.11.2011 introduced digital addressable system in the cable TV sector with sunset date for analogue cable TV services as on 31st December, 2014. Digitalization with addressability would bring in transparency in business transactions and address the issue of under declaration of subscriber base and plug the loopholes in revenue loss.