

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:875
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012
ACTION AGAINST MSO
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any instruction to various Multi System Operators (MSOs) for hastening the digitization of cable services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has recently evoked the registration of some MSO who have failed to provide data related to steps taken for digital switch over;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure speedy implementation of its guidelines/instructions in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWAR)

(a) & (b) The Ministry has constituted a Task Force comprising, inter-alia, representatives from Multi System Operators (MSOs). The MSOs have been part of the Task Force meetings which were held on a fortnightly basis to review the progress and take stock of the preparedness. The Ministry has also constituted various sub-groups of MSOs and LCOs to have focused discussion and action plan towards implementation of DAS. Task Force has held 20 meetings during the implementation of Digital Addressable System (DAS) in Phase-I. The Phase-I of Digital Addressable System (DAS) has been completed in the Metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata in the midnight of 31.10.2012 and in Chennai, the matter is sub judice.

(c) & (d) The Ministry had revoked the Registration of two MSOs viz. Swami Cable TV Networks Limited, Delhi and Home Cable Network Private Limited, Mumbai for not adhering to the instructions of this Ministry in regard to furnishing of mandatory information/data/details relating to implementation of DAS. However, subsequently the MSOs exhibited responsiveness towards adherence to the instructions of this Ministry and as such their registration were restored.

(e) The Ministry has initiated the preparatory activities for implementation of DAS for Phase II cities, wherein the digitization deadline in 38 cities in 15 States expires on 31st March 2013. MSOs have been asked to provide information about the estimated number of Set Top Boxes (STBs) and their plans for procurement of STBs to ensure that the deadline of 31st March 2013 is met in the Phase II cities. Ministry has also started working on a communication campaign to target the specific needs of 38 cities of Phase II. Ministry has conducted a one day workshop on 20th November, 2012 for preparing an integrated plan of action for smooth and flawless transition in Phase II cities. Ministry had earlier written to the Chief Secretaries of the Phase II States to nominate a Nodal Officer from each State as well as from each targeted city so that a close liaison and coordination could be made with the Nodal Officers to sort out local issues.