

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:80
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012
DIGITISATION OF CABLE TV SERVICE
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

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

- (a) whether the implementation of digitization of Cable TV Service in the four metropolitan cities has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are any impediments in the rollout of digitization of Cable TV Service in the remaining cities of the country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of Set Top Boxes at reasonable cost; and
- (e) the time by which the proposed digitization of Cable TV Service is likely to be completed in the remaining cities of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(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. 80 FOR ANSWER ON 27.11.2012

(a)&(b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is implementing digitisation with addressability in the cable TV system in the entire country in four phases. The first phase of Cable TV digitization was completed in 3 out of planned 4 metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata on 31st October, 2012. In Chennai the matter is sub-judice in the High Court of Madras. A total of 74.98 lakh Set Top Boxes were installed as on 15.11.2012 in four Metro cities registering an achievement of 96% in the Cable TV sector. Taking into consideration the total no of DTH subscribers also, the percentage of digitization goes up to 97%.

(c) to (e) At present there are no major impediments in the roll out of Cable TV digitization in the remaining phases. The second phase of Cable TV digitization is scheduled to be completed by 31st March covering 38 cities which have a population of more than one million. All other urban areas (Municipal Corporations / Municipalities) will undertake digital transition by 30th September, 2014 and the rest of India by 31st December, 2014. Set Top Boxes (STBs) are procured by Multi System Operators (MSOs) and provided to the cable TV subscribers. Ministry is constantly monitoring the availability and installation of Set Top Boxes by Multi System Operators. The Multi System Operators have declared the price of basic Set Top Boxes at Rs 799 plus taxes. They have also offered STBs on outright purchase, rental or hire purchase as per the convenience of the consumers.