

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2854

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012

STBS FOR DIGITAL CABLE TV SERVICE

Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara;Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether there is any shortage of Set Top Boxes (STBs) in various parts of the country to implement the Digital Cable TV Services across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon, State-wise;
- (c) whether the viewers who have not yet installed STBs would be allowed to watch TV channels in the existing analog format and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Cable Operators Digitisation Committee had claimed that the Government had reduced the number of cable connections to prove higher penetration; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Some such reports have been brought to the notice of the Ministry. Set Top Boxes (STBs) are procured and distributed by the Multi System Operators (MSOs) through Local Cable Operators to the consumers. Reports regarding shortage of STBs are sent to the MSOs. The Ministry also constantly monitors the procurement and installation of STBs. The first phase of digitization was completed in the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata on 31.10.2012 and in Chennai, the matter is sub judice. A total of 81.07 lakh Set Top Boxes were installed as on 4.12.2012 in four metro cities, registering an achievement of 98% in the Cable TV sector. Taking into consideration the total number of Direct-to-Home subscribers (DTH), and the percentage of digitization goes upto 99%.

(c) As per Section 4(A)(1) Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, it shall be obligatory for every cable operators to transmit or retransmit programmes of any channels in an encrypted form through a Digital Addressable System (DAS) by switching off the analogue format in the areas where DAS has been implemented. In such areas, the cable TV subscribers are required to install STB to watch cable television.

(d) & (e) The database of the Ministry is based on the Census of India 2011 data, published by Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India to determine the number of TV households for assessing the requirement of STBs and its installation for implementation of DAS in the four metro cities in the first phase. In addition to above, DTH operators have also provided their subscriber numbers. Therefore, the database regarding cable connection prepared by the Ministry is based on credible sources.