

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:295

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

HEADEND - IN - THE - SKY

Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Headend-in-the Sky (HITS) Scheme in the broadcasting sector;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has cleared the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to constitute an independent broadcasting regulator/authority; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which HITS Scheme is likely to be implemented/made functional?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) made its recommendations in 2007 for introduction of Headend-In-The-Sky (HITS) Services in India. Based on these recommendations, this Ministry issued the policy guidelines for HITS services in 2009 delineating therein the eligibility criteria for obtaining permission, period of permission, permissible FDI limits, technical standards etc. As per these guidelines, companies registered in India under Company's Act, 1956 are eligible to launch the HITS services after obtaining permission from the Central Government. Detailed guidelines are available at [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in).

The Broadcasting and Cable Services are regulated by TRAI under the provisions of the TRAI Act, 1997. A draft Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill was formulated in 2007 for ensuring orderly growth of the Broadcasting Services by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. However, there were a spectrum of views & opinions which emerged during the consultation process.

Meanwhile, the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) have set up self regulatory mechanisms for regulating News and General Entertainment Channels through the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) and Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) respectively. The Ministry is exercising statutory powers conferred by the Cable.

Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 with regard to violation of content by TV channels.