

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:369  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013  
COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF CABLE OPERATORS  
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) whether the Government has requested the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to suggest a regulatory framework for registration of the cable operators and Multi-System Operators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 is not fulfilling its objective in providing a clear picture and clear definition of a cable operator and its jurisdiction;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to overcome the above situation?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) : The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 under Section 2 (aiii) defines Cable Operator as under :

"cable operator" means any person who provides cable service through a cable television network or otherwise controls or is responsible for the management and operation of a cable television network and fulfills the prescribed eligibility criteria and conditions"

The prescribed eligibility criteria, terms and conditions of registration as also registering authority for Cable Operators are provided for in The Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

A reference was made by the Ministry on 17.01.2013 to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for seeking recommendations on the issue of transmission of local channels or ground based channels by the Cable Operators (LCOs) / Multi System Operators (MSOs) so as to have a clarity in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 with regard to the operation of local channels in the Digital Addressable System (DAS) regime. The gamut of issues, pertaining to the need for prescribing eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, foreign investment levels, security clearance as also the need for putting a cap on the number of ground based channels operated by single MSO/Cable Operator is being referred to TRAI for suitable recommendations for examining the need for any changes in the extant rules and regulations of the Cable Act.