

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1319

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

SHORTAGE OF STBS

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

- (a) whether there is 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 reasons therefor along with the action taken thereon, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that STBs for TV sets provided to the customers by the cable operators are made in foreign countries ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the names of countries where such STBs is being imported, country-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to manufacture STBs in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry is currently implementing Phase II of digitization of Cable TV in 38 cities. As per Census data there are 160 Lakh TV households in Phase II cities which need to undergo digital transition. As per the data furnished by the industry, a total of 87.70 Lakh Set Top Boxes have been installed including 46.99 Lakh Cable Set Top Boxes (STBs) and 40.71 Lakh Direct to Home STBs. Thus about 55% of digitization has already been achieved. Multi System Operators have also informed that 22.29 Lakh STBs are in stock with them and 20.20 lakh STBs are under procurement.

(c) & (d): As per the information provided by MSOs, STBs are procured by them from various countries including China and Korea etc. Some MSOs are also procuring STBs from indigenous manufacturers. The STBs are not procured and supplied by the Ministry. It is purely an industry driven exercise. Data regarding names of countries from where such STBs are being imported, country-wise is not centrally maintained.

(e): Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA), which is an industry body to represent Indigenous manufactures of STBs has been constantly involved in the entire digitization exercise. They have been included in the Task Force constituted for digitization in Phase I and II. Task force has urged them to enhance their manufacturing capacity to meet increased demand for STBs.