

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2465
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
CABLE TELEVISION NETWORKS REGULATION ACT
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Maharashtra regarding the amendment in Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status of the proposal;
- (d) whether the Union Government has taken or proposes to take steps to bring about amendments in this Act; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons of delay in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : The Ministry had received a letter dated 30.6.2009 from Government of Maharashtra regarding the issue of non realization of entertainment duty levied on cable operators. The State Government of Maharashtra had requested the Ministry to make necessary amendments in the Cable Act enabling the Post and Telegraph Department (Registration Authority) to refuse the grant of Registration of renewal certificate to those cable operators who have not paid the entertainment duty under the State Act. They has further informed that the entertainment duty to be paid by the cable operators is levied on the basis of number of cable connection provided by them and that there is rampant under declaration of cable connection by the cable operators, leading to evasion of entertainment tax in Maharashtra.

The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 was amended in 2011, wherein it has been made mandatory for every cable operator to transmit or re-transmit programmes of any channel in an encrypted form through a Digital Addressable System (DAS) in a phased manner in four phases.

Phase I & II of DAS have already been completed. Initial data from the State Governments from the cities covered in the first two phases indicates that there is significant increase in the collection of Entertainment Tax.

Digitization of cable TV would bring transparency in the subscriber base and would enable State Government to realize the full amount of Entertainment Tax after the completion of all the four phases of digitization.