

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2547

ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014

MSOS AND CABLE OPERATORS IN NON PERMITTED AREAS

Alagiri Shri S.

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

- (a) whether Multi-System Operators (MSOs) and cable operators are operating in non-permitted areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether these operators have violated the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) As per Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995, no cable operator can provide cable TV service without registration. Registering authority for the cable operators is the Head Postmaster of a Head Post Office of the area within whose territorial jurisdiction the office of the cable operator is situated.

Before the amendment in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Cable Television Networks Rules in year 2011, all cable operators (Multi System Operators MSOs as well as Local cable Operators LCOs) were required to get registered with Post Offices only.

After the amendment in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in year 2011, MSOs are required to get registered with the Ministry of I & B for operating in DAS

(Digital Addressable System) areas whereas LCOs would continue to get registered with Post Offices.

As per the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Cable Television Network Rules, following are the "authorized Officers" within his local limits of jurisdiction:

- i) a District Magistrate, or
- ii) a Sub-divisional Magistrate or
- iii) a Commissioner of Police

The authorized officers are to ensure that no cable operator (including MSO) operates without registration. Ministry has not received any information from the authorized officers as to whether any cable operator or MSO is operating without registration.