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Title: Need to start an exclusive TV channel (Terrestrial Service) dedicated to Tamil Programmes.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): There are many poor people in the State, who could not afford to pay monthly charges for Cable TV and are solely depending on Doordarshan. Some more people are also using these TV Antennas since they did not want to have cable TV, considering their children's education. The Doordarshan programmes telecast on terrestrial transmission (National channel) alone could be seen by them through this TV antenna. The people have no other choice than to see only this channel which telecast Hindi and Tamil programmes- Many of the Tamil programmes shown in the "Tomorrow's Programmes" could not be viewed by these people because at that particular time Hindi programmes only are telecast. What is provided in the channel has to be seen by these poor people.

The people in Tamil Nadu are able to see Tamil programmes only for limited hours. Out of 129.30 hrs in a week, Tamil Programmes could be seen only for 58 hours. Particularly on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, out of total telecast hour of 55.30 hrs. only for 22 hrs Tamil programmes could be viewed by the people of Tamil Nadu i.e. Hindi programmes for 60.22% and Tamil Programmes 39.78%. Hence on most of the Holidays, including Festival days, the people could be able to watch Tamil Programmes only for a very short time.

The same is the situation obtaining in many parts of Tamil Nadu which are covered by 6 High Power Transmitters, 46 Low Power Transmitters and 7 very Low power transmitters.

If more than one channel could be offered through "IV Antenna, then one programme should be exclusively for Tamil programmes (channel) and other one to the choice of Doordarshan. But if only one channel could be telecast, it should completely have Tamil programmes only. This would only enable to poor people to watch the Tamil Programmes.

In recent years, the technology/facility relating to telecast has made tremendous progress and utilizing the opportunity, the Doordarshan should think of telecasting Tamil programmes alone in the available one channel in Tamil Nadu, through TV Antenna (Terrestrial service).

Hence, I request that action may be taken to see that the poor people of Tamil Nadu are able to watch Tamil programmes.