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Title: Need to issue instructions to pay channels to make available their signals to all the Multi System Operators (MSO) in Tamil Nadu.

\*SHRI C. SIVASAMI (TIRUPPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to my constituency Tiruppur where people are finding it difficult to get cable connection of their choice.

Television channels and their programmes enable people to know of the happenings around the world with immediacy. Multi System Operators (MSO) downlink the signals of the TV channels and distribute it through cable locally. It is through them individual houses get cable connections and get to know of the latest news from the TV channel of their choice which is like a window of the world to them. MSO is like a control room and cable operation emanates from

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\* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil

there. There are many MSOs in Tamil Nadu and among hundreds of such MSOs, Tiruppur Cable Vision is also one that operates in my Tiruppur constituency and I would like to point out that a large number of these MSOs are deprived from getting the signals of Star TV, Sony TV, Sun TV and K Tv. Even the Tamil Nadu Government run MSO is not getting these signals due to monopoly by certain operators. In order to increase their TRP rate, they give the permission and rights for MSOs like Sumangali Cable Vision that is part of the Sun TV Group. The pay channel rights are given exclusively to the chosen few depriving many of the MSOs though they are eligible under the laws of the land. In our country, there are many television channels, there are many political parties and view of various hues and newspapers. But in Tamil Nadu, there is a kind of situation that appears to promote and allow to retain only Sumangali Cable Vision as if it is a monopoly. This affects the legitimate rights and the livelihood of other MSOs who are not able to continue with their business remuneratively.

The District Collector of Coimbatore convened a meeting on 23.10.2003 which was attended by the representatives of Star TV, Sony TV, Sun TV and all the MSOs. After the deliberations, the District Collector issued an order that all the pay channels must be made available to all the MSOs. In all these years, these instructions have been violated. The Government of Tamil Nadu's own MSO is also not getting these pay channels till date. Sun TV is functioning in a monopolistic manner in Tamil Nadu for it favours only Sumangali Cable Vision. This creates a kind of situation where people are denied of their democratic rights to watch a TV channel of their choice.

Hence I urge upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to take note of this and issue suitable instructions to pay channels like Star TV, Sony TV, Sun TV to make available their signals to all the MSOs in Tamil Nadu for wider distribution and better viewing enabling people to have their own choice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 at 11 a.m.

**21.43 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock*

*on Friday, August 27, 2010/Bhadrapada 5, 1932 (Saka).*

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\* Not recorded.

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