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Title: Need to provide license of new Digital Addressable System (DAS) to Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. Vanakkam. During the previous minority DMK rule in Tamil Nadu, in order to safeguard his family run TV Channel, the then Chief Minister and DMK leader blocked Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation. In the year 2011, when Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi Amma became the Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation regained its vigour and started its services. As per the poll assurances given by Hon'ble Amma, this TV Corporation provided 100 Channels for meagre amount Rs.70/- per month and became very popular among the masses of Tamil Nadu. In this scenario, in the year 2012, the then DMK-Congress Coalition government at the Union brought a new legislation making DAS license mandatory for Chennai and other Metropolitan cities. Due to this effect, an application was submitted to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for issue of DAS license for Tamil Nadu Cable TV in the year 2012. But the then DMK-Congress Coalition government at the Union kept this application pending. This paved way for encouraging private TV channels like SUN digital group. In this scenario, after BJP came to power at the Centre, Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma met Hon'ble Prime Minister on 3rd June 2014 and requested for issue of DAS license to Tamil Nadu Cable TV Corporation. Since TRAI has directed not to issue digital license to any State government, the present Union government has also kept this application of TACTV pending. Under the able guidance of Puratchithalaivi Amma 48 MPs from Tamil Nadu of both the Houses of Parliament met Hon'ble Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Arun Jaitley and submitted an application requesting for issue of digital license. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir: What I want to say in this august House is that well before the TRAI's direction Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation had applied for issue of digital license on 5 July 2012 and 23 November 2012. After due consideration of facts and respecting the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu, and as demanded by Puratchithalaivi Amma, Hon'ble Prime Minister should intervene in this matter. I therefore urge upon the Union government through this august House that service oriented Tamil Nadu Cable TV corporation which runs on not-for-profit basis should be granted Digital Access System (DAS) license immediately. Thank you Sir.