

Action against MSOs

1000. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Multiple System Operators (MSOs) are continuously showing Press T.V., Peace T.V., Q.T.V. and other illegal T.V. channels through their network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any action against those MSOs under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some channels' programmes are a threat to the country's internal security and integrity; and

(f) if so, Government's actions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (d) The Cable operators are regulated as per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules thereunder. The Scheme of enforcement envisaged under this Act and Rules is primarily through the authorized officers who are District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Commissioner of Police of the State Government. The Ministry keeps receiving several complaints from various sections of society regarding illegal channels. Action thereunder as per the Act primarily remains in the domain of Authorized Officers. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting either advises the complainants to approach or redirects such complaints to the authorized officers of the area for action as per the Act.

(e) and (f) The Ministry has proposed certain amendments in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to address the problem of illegal Telecast of unregistered channels. These amendments, *inter-alia*, include making transmission of illegal channels a cognizable offence and enhancing the existing financial penalties in the Act with a view to discourage Cable Operator from transmitting illegal channels. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Second Amendment Bill, 2011 containing

certain amendments to address the problem of illegal channels was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 15th of December, 2011 and has been referred to the Standing Committee on IT for examination.

Digitization of cable T.V. networks

†1001. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has completed the work of T.V. digitization in four metropolitan cities of the country by 31st October, 2012;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether this step has impacted the livelihood of cable operators operating with small capital; and

(d) if so, the assessment made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is implementing digitisation with addressability in the cable TV system in the entire country in four phases wherein in the first phase, the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai were to undergo digital switch over by 31st October, 2012. First phase of Cable TV digitization was implemented in the 3 metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata by 31st October, 2012. As regards Chennai the matter is sub judice in the High Court of Madras.

(c) and (d) Telecom Regulatory of India (TRAI) is the Regulatory Authority in respect of Broadcasting and Cable Services in the country. TRAI has informed that the digitisation with addressability of the cable TV systems removes the capacity constraints of the analogue cable TV systems. This paves way for carriage of substantially large number of TV channels and provides scope to carry value added services, interactive services and allows triple play *i.e.* carriage of voice, video and data including broadband. Thus, with such offerings the cable operators, regardless of their size, are expected to have diversified revenue streams.

In addition to the above, in the tariff order applicable for digital addressable TV systems, safeguards have been provided wherein the cable operators can negotiate

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.