

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (c) Downlinking Guidelines allow downlinking of foreign channels in India as per the rules/procedure laid out therein. The applications received from the companies are sent for Inter-Ministerial clearances to Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Revenue and Ministry of External Affairs etc. Once all clearances are received and the company complies with the guidelines, permissions are granted. As on date a proposal has been received from a company for downlinking of a channel uplinked from Pakistan by a Lahore based company which is under consideration in consultation with other Ministries.

Cable TV digitisation

†2547. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cable T.V. digitisation has been completed in the metro cities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether, following this step of Government, any scheme has been formulated in order to provide any economic relief to the common consumers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether this scheme provides for freedom to the T.V. viewers of choosing the channels of their own choice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) The cable TV digitization was completed in 3 out of the planned 4 metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata by the mandated time line of 31st October, 2012. In Chennai the matter is *sub-judice* in the High Court of Madras. A total of 81.07 lakh Set Top Boxes were installed as on 4.12.2012 in four metro cities, registering an achievement of 98% in the Cable TV sector. Taking into consideration the total number of Direct-to-Home subscribers (DTH), the percentage of digitization goes to 99%.

(c) to (e) There is no scheme for providing any economic relief to consumers in the implementation of Digital Addressable System (DAS). However, TRAI in its Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Fourth) (Addressable Systems)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Tariff Order, 2010 dated 21st July, 2010, as amended on 30.4.2012 has certain provisions for the consumers enabling them freedom to exercise their choices. This tariff order in clause 6(1) mandates service providers to offer all channels (pay and free to air) on a-la-carte basis to subscribers. The tariff order in clause 6(1A) also provides that the operators of digital addressable cable TV systems would offer to the consumers a Basic-Service-Tier (BST) comprising of minimum 100 Free-to-Air (FTA) channels, at a maximum charge of Rs. 100/- (excluding taxes) per subscriber per month. The tariff order stipulates in clause 6(1B) that it shall be open to the subscriber to choose any combination of free to air channels upto one hundred channels, in lieu of the basic service tier offered by the multi-system operator. It is also provided in clause 6(1D) that it shall be open to the subscriber of the digital addressable cable TV to subscribe to basic service tier or basic service tier and one or more pay channel or only free to air channels or only pay channels or pay channels and free to air channels.

Digitisation of Cable TV

†2548. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

SHRI AVINASH PANDE:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:

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

(a) whether implementation of digitisation of Cable TV in four metropolitan cities has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are any hurdles to start digitisation of Cable TV in the remaining cities of the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to meet the demand of set top boxes at affordable prices;

(e) by when the proposed digitisation of Cable TV in those cities of the country is likely to be completed; and

(f) what is the overall estimated cost of the project?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.