

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?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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 (f) At present, no hurdles are anticipated in the implementation of DAS in the second Phase where 38 cities having more than 1 million population will undergo digital switch over by 31st March, 2013. The Ministry has been constantly in contact with the Multi-system Operators to assess and monitor the availability and seeding of STBs on a regular basis. The cost of the implementation of DAS is to be borne by the industry. In the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations on Foreign Investment Limits for Broadcasting Sector dated 30th June, 2010, it has been mentioned that the estimated fund requirement for achieving DAS with digitalization and addressability provisions at all India level is to the order of Rs. 20000-50000 crores.

#### **Sting operation by media people**

†2549. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the practice of blackmailing the officers and politicians by conducting sting operation is being carried out on a very large scale by the private channels and media people;

(b) whether Government has any plan to constitute any committee for its investigation and to fix the responsibility of print media and communication media on the suggestion of the committee;

(c) whether the people of print media try to defame the public life through paid news on a large scale; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to check this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) The Ministry is not aware of

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