

एक माननीय सदस्य : महाराणा प्रताप की है।

श्री तरुण विजय : इसलिए, मैं सरकार से अपील करता हूँ कि यहां पूरे विश्व का सबसे शानदार युद्ध स्मारक बने। अगर इंडिया गेट उसमें बाधा बनता है, तो उसको भी आप नेशनल म्यूजियम में ले जाएं, पर भारत के सैनिकों का सबसे शानदार स्मारक दिल्ली में और उसके केन्द्रीय स्थान में बनना चाहिए।

Issue of Digital Addressable System Licence to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, after the Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi assumed office in May 2011, the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation, a Government of Tamil Nadu Public Sector Undertaking, earlier in a defunct State, was revived. The Corporation started its cable TV services in all the 31 districts of Tamil Nadu on 02.09.2011, barring Chennai and is providing 100 channels to the subscriber at a cost of Rs. 70 per month. There has been an overwhelming response from the people of Tamil Nadu, with 23,000 local cable operators and a subscriber base of 60 lakhs.

The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. is now the single largest Multi-System Operator in India, offering its services across the State at the lowest rate in the entire country. Thus, the people of Tamil Nadu have got reprieve from the erstwhile MSOs who used to fleece them by charging Rs.150-250 per month for just 30-70 channels.

The Government of India issued a Conditional Access System (CAS) license to Arasu Cable Corporation for Chennai city on 02.04.2008, which is now in operation. The Union Government has modified the CAS into Digital Addressable System (DAS). Accordingly, the Arasu Cable Corporation has taken all steps to start its operations in the digital mode in Chennai at a cost of Rs. 50 crores.

The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. had applied for the Digital Addressable System (DAS) license to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 05.07.2012, but the issue of the licence is still pending. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued DAS licence to 9 other MSOs in Tamil Nadu, including those who had applied after the Arasu Corporation had done so.

A delegation of AIADMK MPs have met the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Manish Tiwari, on 27.11.2012, and the hon. Prime Minister on 29.11.2012, in this regard, but the DAS licence is yet to be issued.

[Dr. V. Maitreyan]

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi*, has written to the hon. Prime Minister yesterday urging his intervention and direction to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Sir, it is pertinent to mention here that the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court had also passed orders on 06.12.2012 that the process of issue of licence to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation may go on and the licence may be issued.

Hence, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, through you, I urge the hon. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Manish Tiwari, to immediately issue the DAS licence to the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation so that the common man, the *aam admi* of Tamil Nadu, is benefited by the pro-people schemes of the Tamil Nadu Government led by Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi*.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, this is a ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am seeking permission of the Chair. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, it is a public sector organization. Keeping that in mind, the Government should expedite the issue of licence to the Arasu Cable Corporation. We support the issue that has been raised and expect the Government to act fast.

Unemployment due to closure of mining operations in Goa

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, it is well-known that in Goa, mining has stopped since the last three-four months. In fact, it is estimated that Rs.17,600 crores would be the loss in revenue to the State Government. This is the estimate being made. Sir, thousands of truck owners, their families and children are now suffering because they have no work. They are finding it difficult even to pay for the mundane expenses of their children. The barge owners who have taken loans from banks to start their barge business are also in deep trouble. I won't be surprised if tomorrow there are suicide cases in Goa in the mining sector. The Marmagao Port Trust will have no money to pay the salaries after three months. Now, the Goa C.M. has said that even if the Supreme Court directs the State Government, he would not start mining. Secondly, he says if the Supreme Court of India was to appoint a Minister for Mines in Goa, let it appoint the Minister in Goa and