

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 regulates the operation of cable television networks. Dish TV, TATA SKY, BIG TV etc. are Direct-to-Home DTH service providers which are governed by the policy Guidelines for DTH services issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The tariff applicable for the broadcasting and cable TV services, both at wholesale and retail levels, is governed by tariff orders notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time.

Detailed tariff orders notified by TRAI from time to time is available at <http://traai.gov.in>.

Apart from the above services, Doordarshan provides free DTH services through DD Direct+ by a onetime investment for installation of Dish Antenna, Set-Top Box.

(b) No such instance has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Monopoly of cable TV operators

425. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the cable TV operations have virtually been monopolised in certain States/areas as operations of the entire cable TV network are dominated by a single Multi System Organization (MSO) or Local Cable Operators (LCOs);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for allowing such monopolistic operations; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent monopolistic operations by MSOs and LCOs across the country in order to ensure competitive pricing and healthy growth of cable TV sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (c) The Ministry is seized of the issue of monopolistic practices in various segments of broadcasting sector and accordingly Ministry has made a reference to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 16th May 2012 on media ownership issues in the broadcasting sector. TRAI has been requested to examine the entire gamut of media ownership issues, and to provide recommendations on vertical as well as horizontal integration within the various segments in the Broadcasting Sector. Another reference has been made to TRAI on 12th December 2012 on the monopolistic practices by Cable and Multi System Operators. TRAI has been asked to recommend on the need for placing restrictions and amendments in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) 1995 Act and Rules to ensure fair competition, quality of service and equity in cable services. The gist of the issues on which recommendations of TRAI have been sought in these references is given in the Statement (*See below*). Consultation with stakeholders by TRAI is a dynamic and continuous process.

Statement

List of Issues on which recommendations of TRAI have been sought

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in its letter dated 16.05.2012 to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has requested the authority to re-look at the following issues and make appropriate recommendations:

- In the present emerging scenario more and more broadcasting companies owning television channels are venturing into various distribution platforms, namely Cable TV distribution, DTH and IPTV etc. Similarly many companies owning distribution platforms are also entering into television broadcasting. This type of vertical integration can seriously affect competition and promote monopolistic practices. Therefore, there is a need to address such vertical integration. TRAI may suggest measures that can be put in place to address vertical integration in order to ensure fair growth of the broadcasting sector.
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- In another scenario companies have controls/ownerships across Print, TV and Radio leading to horizontal integration. At present there is no restriction for a company to have ownership across Radio, Television and Print mediums. Such a situation may prevent plurality of news and views and, in turn, may have several implications including ensuring quality services at reasonable prices. TRAI may also look at this issue and suggest appropriate measures in this regard.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in its letter dated 12.12.2012 to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has requested the authority to provide its recommendations on the following:

- In order to ensure fair competition, improved quality of service, and equity, should any restriction be imposed on MSOs/LCOs to prevent monopolies/accumulation of interest? If yes, what restrictions should be imposed and what should be the form, nature and scope of such restrictions? Accordingly, amendments required in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder may also be suggested.
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Employment opportunities

†426. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2.7 million employment opportunities were created in the country due to creation of new employment opportunities during the period from 2004-05 to 2009-10;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 60 million new employment opportunities were created during the five years preceding 2004-05; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.