

की स्कीम है, क्रेडिट लिंक सब्सिडी स्कीम है और दूसरी जो हाउसिंग पार्टनरशिप स्कीम है, उस स्कीम के तहत उनको इंटरेस्ट और इंस्टॉलमेंट में क्या भारत सरकार राहत दे सकती है?

राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह: चेयरमैन साहब, मैंने जैसे पहले अर्ज किया कि लैंड और कॉलोनाइजेशन स्टेट सब्जेक्ट होते हैं। स्टेट की इमदाद करने के लिए ये चार वर्टिकल प्राइम मिनिस्टर आवास योजना के तहत किए गए हैं। जो स्टेट चाहती है जिसको देना, अगर वह हमको तजबीज करती है कि इस किस्म के शहर के अंदर हम यह स्कीम लागू करना चाहते हैं CLSS वाली या *in situ* वाली या बेनिफिशियरी-लेड वाली कोई भी स्कीम अगर स्टेट चाहे वह एक्सटेंड उस एरिया को कर सकती है और हमारी मंजूरी ले सकती है।

Strengthening of digital transmitters in border areas

*125.SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen digital transmitters for broadcast in border areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action is being taken for cracking down on broadcast of unauthorised channels especially in border areas; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make contents of AIR broadcasts interesting, entertaining and useful to the listeners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATOHRE): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that as far as Doordarshan is concerned as part of Eleventh and Twelfth Plan Schemes, 11 Digital High Power TV Transmitters (HPTs) in border areas have been approved and are at various stages of implementation. The expected time for completion is about two years.

Transmission of unpermitted satellite channels is a violation of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and there are adequate provisions in the Act to curb

such activities and take penal as well as punitive action. The Cable Act, 1995 has defined authorized officers who are empowered to take action against any such violations. In view of the reports in media pertaining to illegal transmission of 'Peace TV channel (unpermitted TV channel)', this Ministry *vide* D.O. letter dated 12.07.2016 informed Ministry of Home Affairs that all Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs have been apprised on 08.07.2016 of the Rules of the Cable Act, 1995 which can be invoked against any violation by the authorised officers and therefore direct that in case of violation the authorized officer must act promptly.

A similar request has also been made to all District Collectors/Magistrates to ensure that no TV channel in their respective districts, which are not permitted, are transmitted and necessary and prompt action must be taken by the authorized officers in the district against any such defaulters.

The Ministry has also advised all Multi System operators and Local Cable operators that they should abide by the provisions of the Cable Act, 1995 and that no unpermitted satellite TV channels are transmitted by them in their networks and in case of violation, necessary action will be taken against the defaulters.

In view of the fact that the agencies of MHA are present throughout the country, this Ministry has requested Ministry of Home Affairs to direct them to immediately apprise the authorised officers (the District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Commissioner of Police whenever such transmissions of unpermitted satellite channels are noticed for appropriate action. In addition this Ministry also requested Ministry of Home Affairs to share information on any other unpermitted satellite channel that is being transmitted in the country.

It has been All India Radio's constant endeavor to make the programmes interesting, entertaining and useful to its listeners based on various feedback. Towards this objective, AIR constantly innovates its programming contents by incorporating formats like dial-ins and dial-outs with studio and field interaction of experts and listeners, for instant connect and redressal. To make programmes based on Government's flagship schemes, AIR opts for featurised episodes based on interaction with actual beneficiaries/target audience. AIR also tries to entertain its listeners with classical music, popular film based programmes besides radio plays, skits and sports commentaries which are popular.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, I am sure the whole House would appreciate that the border areas of our country are normally sensitive areas, but given the present situation, they have become volatile. This has been a longstanding problem that the transmitters on our borders across large-border areas have been weak and inadequate and the neighbouring country has stronger transmitters with the result that our people tend to tune into those countries' programmes which are not always beneficial for them as Indians. This matter was being attended to and it was also found that those transmitters, which are in existence, are not in working order because they can't get the trained personnel to go over there. There was a suggestion when I was in the Ministry that we should try to access retired armed forces personnel, whether engineers or others who used to work in those conditions over there, and give them post-retirement employment to oversee our transmitters there. The reply says that in the next two-three years we might have 11 more transmitters but does not talk of those which are non-functional. I want to know this from the hon. Minister. Is the scheme to re-employ our trained retired armed forces personnel for maintaining our transmitters still valid or not?

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE: Sir, I will go to the specific question asked right now but it was not part of the main question. There is no scheme as such to employ retired armed forces personnel to man or maintain the transmitters that have been put on the border posts. I can assure the ex-I&B Minister that the Prasar Bharati personnel are as trained as the armed forces personnel are to man these transmitters on the border areas. However, this question is important. There are 243 television transmitters on the border areas and there are 423 FM transmitters at 392 locations. To be specific, in the border areas, there are 31 FM transmitters which we are putting now and 11 digital transmitters that we are putting for the television. The footprint of our satellite transmission, which usually broadcast the television signals, is on the entire country. And specifically for the border areas, we are distributing them 31,000 set-top boxes free of cost so that these border areas are better equipped to see our signals.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, if the hon. Minister wants to dodge the question, I am okay with it. My second question is regarding transmission and putting across channels which are not permitted by the Ministry. This is not a new problem. This has been going on for a long time. The Minister has reproduced a paragraph of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act. But he is surely aware of the fact that wherever

the Ministry, through proper channels, has asked for these channels to be stopped, there have been sometimes law and order problems leading to even communal problems. As a result, the matter has been dropped. It is for this very reason and so many other reasons, like a loss to the national exchequer and a loss of financial means to the broadcasters, that we introduced a complete programme for digitalisation of television network and the phases were worked out. It was supposed to be completed in the whole country by 31st December, 2015. I want to know: Is that digitalisation plan still moving forward? What are the new dates? Or has the Government given it up?

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE: Sir, the digitisation plan has been completed. As regards the channels which are played in the cable network in violation or contravention of the rules, it is the local authorities and the district administrators, which have to take action. They are authorised to take action as per the Cable Television Networks Act. I might also like to correct myself that an advisory has been issued to the MSOs to digitise as soon as possible. Also, in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, show cause notices have been issued to the cable operators who were showing channels in violation of the rules of the land.

श्री अमर शंकर साबले: धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि "गैर-अनुमति प्राप्त सैटेलाइट चैनलों का प्रसारण केबल टेलीविज़न नेटवर्क (विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1995 का उल्लंघन है तथा उक्त अधिनियम में ऐसे कार्यकलापों को नियंत्रित करने तथा शक्ति एवं दंडात्मक कार्रवाई करने के लिए पर्याप्त प्रावधान मौजूद हैं।" मैं आप के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन प्रावधानों से कितने गैर-अनुमति प्राप्त सैटेलाइट चैनलों को दंडित किया गया, उनके खिलाफ क्या कार्रवाई की गयी और उसका conviction ratio क्या है?

कर्नल राज्यवर्धन सिंह राठौर: सर, जितने भी केबल्स पर violation पर चैनल्स चलते हैं, उनके लिए हर डिस्ट्रिक्ट के अंदर एक District Monitoring Committee होती है जो Cable Television Networks Act के अंतर्गत इसकी देख-रेख और इसका चिंतन करती है। इसके साथ ही हर राज्य के अंदर एक State Monitoring Committee होती है, जो इसका चिंतन करती है और उसके ऊपर action लेती है। जब भी केन्द्र सरकार के संज्ञान में यह आता है कि कोई चैनल violation में चल रहा है तो हमें सबसे पहले खबर हासिल करनी पड़ती है क्योंकि केबल नेटवर्क localize network होता है और उसका राष्ट्रीय प्रसारण नहीं होता है, इसलिए हम वहां के Chief Secretary या वहां के अधिकारियों से information हासिल करते हैं और उन्हें action लेने के लिए encourage करते हैं।

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are in an era of information explosion and the communication facility is just in the palm due to the ready

availability of WiFi and all other extra facilities. Other advanced nations are entering into 7G by which there will not be any difference between the transmitter and the smartphone. In this given situation, the multi-system operators and the local cable operators are a bigger problem in sensitive areas. It is not only across the border areas but also other areas. Wherever some sensitivity arises, there the problem is very well known to the Government authorities. In the given situation, I would like to ask the hon. Minister: Do they have the capacity to address violation of the Cable Television Networks Act by local cable operators or do you depend on the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Revenue authorities to take care of those problems?

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE: Sir, governance is a collective issue. It is a collective effort. Therefore, the Central Government takes the support of the local Governments to take into consideration any violations that are happening. Any action that has to be taken, whether it is impounding of their equipment, has to be taken by the local authorities and they are empowered to do that. I can assure the House that they are very cooperative about it.

DR. SUBHASH CHANDRA: Sir, we had, in this connection, suggested a couple of years back that any signal emanating out of any headend of the cable operator has to be licensed as per the Cable Act. That proposal is pending with the Ministry for two-three years. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is doing something about taking action on it because licensing is a must. You are not asking the cable operators to take license. That is why these things are happening about which the Members are concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*...

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE: Sir, if I am correct, I think, the Member is asking about the localized transmission that is done by the cable operators like running their own channels. Yes, we are absolutely aware of this situation. A deliberation is on as to how we can bring them into licensing so that they are equally responsible as other channels.

FM stations in Goa

*126.SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the present range of FM stations in Goa;