

(b) to (d) As per sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, Central Government may specify one or more free to air channels to be included in the package of channels forming basic service tier (of free to air channels) and any or more such channels may be specified, in the notification, genere-wise for providing a programme mix of entertainment, information, education and such other programmes. Under sub-section (3) of section 4A of above said Act, Central Government may also specify the number of free to air channels to be included in the package of channels forming basic service tier and different number may be specified for different states, cities, towns or areas as the case may be.

The Government has constituted a Task Force to examine various issues related to the implementation of Conditional Access System. Supply of free-to-air channels not included in the basic service tier will be determined by market forces.

Introdcuting of set top boxes in Cable Network

576. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that set top boxes will have to be introduced in cable homes to implement Cable Network Access Act;

(b) if so, the total number of such homes and the projectd number of such boxes in the next three years, year-wise;

(c) the numbes of companies providing set top technologies and manufacturing this products and their profiles and other details thereof, company-wise;

(d) the financial magnitude of the set top box market; and

(e) the break-up of the market in terms of digital and analogue technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 4A of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has, on 14th January, 2003, notified the 15th day of January, 2003 as the

date within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/re-transmit programmes of every pay channel on an addressable system in the four metro cities namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter, a set top box will be required to view the pay channels and not the free-to-air channels.

Addressable systems for viewing the pay channels are expected to be installed by Broadcasters, MSOs, Cable Operators, or consumers, as per different business models emerging in the market. Since the systems are not in use so far in any significant numbers, indigenous production capacity has not developed.

Initially the demand is likely to be met by imports, till indigenous production capacity is installed. Details of some Set Top Box Manufacturers outside India, as received from industry sources, are given in the Statement. (See below)

It is difficult to estimate the requirement of Set Top Boxes in the market at this stage. The industry has indicated that it might be in the region of 1.25 to 2.5 millions in the first phase of which about 1/3rd are likely to be in digital mode.

Statement

Indicative list of set top box manufactures

1. Philips India Ltd.
Technopolis Knowledge Park,
NELCO Complex,
Mahakali Caves Road, Chakala
Andheri (E)
Mumbai-400093.
2. Thomson Multimedia India Private Limited
No. 44, 2nd Floor, Krishna Shree Building,
1st Main Road, Gandhi Nagar,
Adyar, Chennai-600020.
3. Eastern Electronics Co., Ltd.
No. 4, Shin-Long Road
Kwei-Shan Industrial Area
Tao-Yuan, Taiwan, R.O.C

4. Humax Co., Ltd.
Humax Venture Tower
271-2, Seohyeon-Dong
Gyeonggi-Do
Seongnam City
463-050
Korea
5. Mentor Data Systems, Inc.
24-1, Industry East 4th Road
Science Based Industrial Park
Hsinchu, Taiwan, R.O.C
6. Pace Micro Technology plc
Room 905, Shatin Galleria
18-24 Shan Mei St., Po Tan, N.T.,
Hong Kong
7. Tae Young Telstar Co., Ltd.
Fl. Young Kwang Bldg. 680-5
Deung Chon 3-Dong Kang Seo-Ku
Seoul, Korea
8. Aegis Broadband Inc.
16450 Via Esprillo
San Diego, CA 92127
9. DALVI Technology Ltd.
10 Wedgwood Court,
Wedgwood Way, Stevenage
Hertfordshire SG1 4QR, England.

Broadcasting Council for TV Channels

577. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up an independent Broadcasting Council to regulate the control of TV Channels;
- (b) if so, by when it will be formed; and
- (c) the details of the power likely to be accorded to it?