

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2157

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 21-12-2023)

MINISTRY'S ADVISORY TO STATE-OWNED COMPANIES

2157. SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government-owned companies like TACTV is involved in multi system operators offering services to the lowest strata of people facilitating Right to Information and acquiring knowledge and facilitating livelihood to cable operators through Cable TV and providing internet services at affordable price; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the Ministry asking State-owned companies to extract themselves from offering services through their advisory dated 21st October, 2023?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a): M/s Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV) was granted provisional registration to operate as Multi-system Operator on 17.04.2017 subject to the condition that, if Ministry of Information and Broadcasting after having considered the recommendations of

TRAI on the issue of whether to allow State Governments/PSUs and other entities to enter into broadcasting activities, including MSO/cable operations, decides not to permit such entities as TACTV, then the registration holder will abide by the decision and the registration shall automatically be lapsed.

(b): On October 21st, 2022, this Ministry issued an advisory stating that no Central/State/UT Government and related entities shall enter into the business of Broadcasting/Distribution of broadcasting. In case, they are already broadcasting their content, it shall be done through the Public Broadcaster i.e. Prasar Bharati and further they will be required to extract themselves from the Broadcasting/distribution services by 31.12.2023.

The Advisory was issued in view of recommendations of TRAI, the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Cricket Association of Bengal (1995 AIR (SC) 1236 :: 1995 (2) SCC 161) and opinion of Ministry of Law and Justice.
