

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2944
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018)**

DIGITIZATION OF BROADCASTING SECTOR

2944. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

WILL THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING BE PLEASED TO STATE:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any outline for digitization of broadcasting sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether indigenous set-top boxes are much in demand and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to promote indigenous manufacturers of set-top boxes for cable/DTH television and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) & (b): Ministry of Information and Broadcasting laid down the schedule in four phases for digitization of the Cable TV Networks across the country. The sun set date for cable TV digitization was 31.03.2017. As per Section 4A of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 with effect from 01.4.2017, only digital encrypted signals can be carried by the Cable Operators on their networks.

As far as All India Radio is concerned, various digitization schemes are as under:

- i. Replacement/ Up-gradation of 36 valve based MW/ SW Transmitters by new technology solid state digital (DRM) MW Transmitters.
- ii. 127 studios of existing AIR Stations are approved under Digitization.
- iii. Replacement of 6 digital ready MW transmitters in LWE affected area.
- iv. 127 Studio Transmitter link (STL) are placed for digitization of connectivity.
- v. Digitisation of Archives at Delhi, CBS Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata & Regional Archive centre at Hyderabad.
- vi. News room automation at all 44 RNUs and opening of 7 new RNUs.
- vii. Digitization of all 32 existing captive earth stations (CES) have been digitized and 5 new captive earth stations at Dehradun, Silchar, Tiruchirapalli and Dharwad.

- viii. 17 popular channels of AIR can also be received through internet by browsing AIR's website <allindiaradio.gov.in> and by downloading suitable apps on iOS/ Android/ Windows based mobile phones.
- ix. 39 channels of AIR are available on Doordarshan's DTH platform (DD Free Dish) throughout the country, which can be received by using set top Box.

In addition, Government has approved digital audio compatible new FM transmitters at 174 places and replacement/upgradation of existing FM transmitters at 77 places.

As far as Doordarshan is concerned, Doordarshan transmission in satellite mode is digital. 63 Doordarshan Studio Centres are fully digital. Digitization of 04 Studios Centres at Warangal, Kozhikode (Calicut), Coimbatore & Patiala is dependent on availability of resources.

- (c) Cost of indigenous STBs is comparatively higher than the imported ones hence, demand may not be higher for these as of now.
- (d) Ministry has been supporting the local manufacturing of STBs. At present, STBs are indigenously manufactured by about 15 companies in India.

Doordarshan has authorized BECIL along with 10 other STB manufacturers in India to manufacture STBs for (DD Direct Plus) DTH platform.
