

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. * 19
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.06.2019)**

INTERCONNECTION REGULATION FOR BROADCASTING AND CABLE SERVICES

***19 SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE :**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to sign interconnection agreement as per TRAI's new regulatory framework 2017 with all broadcasters of paid television channels and Digital Platform Operators (DPOs).
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any mechanism in place for vigilance checks as many of the Multi System Operators (MSOs) have not signed either MoU/MIA/SIA with the local operators and have thus violated TRAI's regulatory framework, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the broadcasters are using non-encrypted Set-Top Boxes (STBs) from China, thereby causing loss of revenue to the Government, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND
MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA
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(a) & (b) No Sir. The interconnection agreement is made between Broadcaster and service providers viz. Distribution Platform Operators.

(c) TRAI has issued directions to Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) to fully comply with the provisions of regulations. Sub-clause 1 of clause 12 of the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017 states that, *'No distributor of television channels shall provide signals of television channels to a local cable operator without entering into a written interconnection agreement with such local cable operator'*.

(d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not centrally maintain such information.
