

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4338
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005
DIGITALIZATION OF CABLE TELEVISION
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has prepared a national action plan for digitalization of cable television;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the action plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations dated 14th September, 2005 on digitalization of Cable Television has recommended that there should be a national plan for digitalization from 1st April, 2006 till 31st March 2010. These recommendations are available at TRAI's website (www.traai.gov.in). Essential features of this plan are:-

- i) Introduction of digital service in all cities/urban agglomerations with a population of one million plus by 2010. In all these cities the existing analogue service will continue simultaneously;
- ii) Licensing for new entrants and automatic licensing for existing operators.
- iii) Rationalization of import and domestic duties by April 1, 2006.
- iv) Use of Entertainment tax for a consumer education programme during these four years (2006-10).

(c): These recommendations are under examination of the Government.