

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:439
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
NEW DIGITAL OPTION
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new digital option for television viewers in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the time by when it is likely to be introduced ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Conditional Access System (CAS) has been introduced for Cable television viewers in parts of metropolitan area of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata from 31.12.2006. CAS is already under implementation in Chennai. Though digital transmission and distribution has not been made mandatory for introduction of CAS but it is seen that almost all of the Multi System Operators operating in CAS notified areas have switched over to Digital technology. The Central Government at present is evaluating the success of the first phase of implementation. The State Governments will apprise the Central Government of their views on the extension to remaining parts of the three metros.

The relevant notifications giving details of areas notified under CAS are Annexed. The other digital options available for Television viewers all over India is the Direct-to-Home (DTH) service. Apart from Doordarshan's DD Direct+free to air service there are two other private DTH service providers namely Tata Sky & Dish TV. The number of service providers is likely to increase.

Another recent option for digital content delivery is Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) services by Telecom Service providers. MTNL has started a pilot offering of IPTV in Delhi recently.

Under a pilot project Doordarshan has started its TV on mobile services using Digital Video Broadcasting- Handheld (DVB-H) technology in Delhi.