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Title: Need to issue licence to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Madam Speaker, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had revived the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation which is a Government of Tamil Nadu's fully-owned Public Sector Undertaking....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No, he is speaking. Please sit down. Shri Thambidurai is speaking, please take your seat. Shri Deve Gowda Ji, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: This corporation is providing hundred channels at a cost of Rs. 70 per month per subscriber. Because of that, nearly 60 lakh subscribers have enrolled in the Tamil Nadu Arasu TV Cable Corporation. We have also applied for getting the DAS licence.

Madam, I want to make it very clear that Tamil Nadu Government got the permission in 2008 to have this kind of a system. Our hon. Chief Minister launched this Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation which is catering to the needs of a lot of poor people. The private operators, who are doing this business, are charging Rs. 250 per month per subscriber. The private operators are providing only 30 channels but the Tamil Nadu Corporation which is providing one hundred channels charges only Rs. 70. The Government of India subsequently amended the Act and modified the Conditional Access System Area into the Digital Addressable System Area. Accordingly, the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation has taken all the efforts to start its operations in Digital Mode in Chennai city also. This Corporation has placed orders for the supply of Set Top Boxes, Conditional Access System, Subscriber Management System and erection of Head End at a cost of about Rs.50 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation has applied for Digital Addressable System licence to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 5.7.2012. The issue of the licence is still pending. It is learnt that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had issued the Digital Addressable System licence to nine Multi-System Operators in Tamil Nadu. All these people had applied for licence, after the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation had applied.

It is pertinent to mention here that the hon. Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has also passed orders on 6.12.2012 stating that the process of issue of licence to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation may go on and the licence may also be issued.

Here, what I want to mention to you is this. On behalf of my Party and on behalf of my hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I would request and urge the Government of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to issue the licence at the earliest to see that the people are benefited. We have represented to the hon. Minister many times. We, all the MPs, met and requested him but the delay is taking place. Therefore, I would humbly request you that this is only for the common cause. This is a public sector undertaking. It is not a private company. The Tamil Nadu Govt. is not monopolising it. Even private operators are also allowed to operate in Tamil Nadu. Then why is the Indian Government denying and delaying that? I would like to know whether they are having any vested interests in that. We are having a doubt about that. That is why, we would once again request the Government of India, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to give the DAS licence at the earliest to see that the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation is able to launch the programme and benefit the people. This Government of Tamil Nadu's undertaking has the largest network coverage in Tamil Nadu. That is why, we would expect that the Government will encourage and see that the licence is given at the earliest.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri K. Sugumar is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Dr. M. Thambidurai.