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Title: Need to sanction Digital Addressable System License to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable T.V. Corporation.

*SHRI P.R.SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. First of its kind in the country, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Hon. Amma has been implementing cable TV service in Tamil Nadu with 100 channels at an affordable cost of Rs.70 through Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation.

Union Government brought Cable TV Regulation Act in 1995 to regulate cable TV service in the country.

In 2008, Conditional Access System licenses were provided cable TV services.

The previous Government had issued order for digitization of cable TV operations before December 2014. It had ordered that multi system operators should also get Digital Addressable System (DAS) licenses.

As per orders of Hon. Amma, Tamil Nadu Cable TV Corporation applied for DAS licenses for Chennai on 5.7.2012 and for other parts of Tamil Nadu on 23.11.2012.

Application was sent to Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Due to political vendetta and to prevent Hon'ble Amma from gaining popularity the previous UPA government kept pending the application for grant of digital license to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation. Sumagali Cable Vision and 13 other private Multi System Operators who applied on a later date were granted licenses by the previous Congress led UPA government.

As directed by Hon'ble Amma, a delegation of AIADMK MPs had meetings with the then Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the then Minister for Information and Broadcasting in 2013 and requested for issue of DAS license to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation. Yet the Digital Addressable System license has not been granted so far.

On 3rd June 2013 when Hon. Amma met Hon'ble Prime Minister this issue was

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

once again raised. Hon. Amma had also written a detailed letter in this regard to the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Broadcasting. We, 37 MPs from AIADMK, met Hon. I&B Minister and handed over Hon. Amma's letter. But so far no announcement has been made.

I therefore urge the Hon. Prime Minister through this august House to grant Digital Addressable System license to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation without any further delay.