

Press Release No. 760

Date:16.12.2012

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 16.12.2012 addressed to **Dr.Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is reproduced below:-

"As you are aware, after the assumption of the Government under my leadership in May, 2011, I have revived the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation, a Government of Tamil Nadu Public Sector Undertaking which was earlier kept in a defunct state.

The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. has commenced its Cable TV services in all the 31 Districts of Tamil Nadu on 2.9.2011 barring Chennai, which is a Conditional Access System area. The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. is providing 100 channels to the subscribers at a cost of Rs.70/- per month per subscriber. There has been an overwhelming response from the public and the Local Cable Operators. 23,000 Local Cable Operators with a subscriber base of 60 lakhs are availing of the services of this Corporation.

I take pride in stating that the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. is now the single largest Multi System Operator in India, offering its services across the State at the lowest rate in the entire country. Through this service, the people of Tamil Nadu have been freed from the clutches of the erstwhile Multi System Operators, who used to fleece them by charging Rs.150 – Rs.250 per month as subscription for showing just 30 – 70 channels only.

The Government of India issued a Conditional Access System licence to this Corporation for Chennai City on 2.4.2008 and the Conditional Access System services are now in operation. The Government of India has subsequently amended the Act and modified the Conditional Access System area into Digital Addressable System area. Accordingly, the Corporation has taken all efforts to start its operations in the Digital Mode in Chennai City. The Corporation has placed orders for the supply of Set Top Boxes, Conditional Access System and Subscriber Management System and erection of Head End at a cost of about Rs.50 crores.

The Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. had applied for the 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 has issued the Digital Addressable System licence to nine other Multi System Operators in Tamil Nadu, including those who applied after the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd.

A delegation led by Dr. M. Thambidurai, M.P., met Smt. Ambika Soni, the then Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting on 26.10.2012, who promised to issue the licence immediately. Afterwards, senior officials of the Government of Tamil Nadu also met the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, several times.

As the issue of licence was further delayed, on my direction a delegation led by Dr. M. Thambidurai, M.P. met Shri. Manish Tiwari, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, on 27.11.2012, and requested him to expeditiously issue the Digital Addressable System licence as digitalization has to be completed within a time frame.

Meanwhile, a team of MPs of my Party have also called on you on 29.11.2012 and given a representation in this matter. However, the Digital Addressable System licence is yet to be issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It is pertinent to mention here that the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has also passed orders on 6.12.2012 that "the process of issue of licence to Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation may go on and the licence may also be issued".

Hence, I urge you to intervene in the matter and direct the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to issue the Digital Addressable System licence to the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd immediately."

Issued by : Director, Information & Public Relations, Chennai – 9

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