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Greater Guwahati Cable TV Operators Association

3RD. FLOOR, GALAXY HEIGHTS, H/NO.- 107, OPP. SAINIK WELFARE BHAWAN,
RAJGARH ROAD, GUWAHATI - 781 007 (ASSAM)
Regd. No. RF/KAM/240/i/429 of 98/99

Ref. No.....

Date :.....

To

MR PRAKASH JAVEDKAR

HONORABLE MINISTER, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

Sub- Appeal from Cable TV Operators of Assam

Respected Sir,

We are Cable TV Operators of Assam, laying down the following lines for your kind consideration & necessary action.

That Sir, in Assam there are more than 40,000 individuals involved either directly or indirectly to the Cable TV Industry. Since Assam is already considered to be an industrially backward region, the scope of employment for educated unemployed youths is also very negligible. The political, economical situation of this region has resulted in the unemployment of large numbers of educated youths. But the Cable TV Industry has been able to create self employment to thousands of educated unemployed youths for last decades although without any government patronage.



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That Sir, educated entrepreneurs involved as MSO, LMO/LCO & skilled persons as technicians, local channel artist, with other individuals involved as revenue collectors, office assistant are on the verge of losing their employment due to negligence of law enforcement in state level.

That Sir, over the years, the numbers of MSO has reduced for reasons already reported on many occasions by our colleagues from other states, along with the grabbing of networks of LMO/LCO unfairly by big players resulting in vertical monopoly of Cable TV business in the state.

That Sir, as Guwahati is in phase 3 & rest of Assam in phase 4 of DAS, both Analog & Digital are simultaneously transmitted in the Networks connected to these MSO at present. STB are planted by MSO since last 2-3 years at consumer end but not in compliance of various notifications, recommendations and directions on STB or DAS by TRAI or MIB.

That Sir, the saddest part is absence of any authority in state level to monitor or implement the provisions of Cable TV or TRAI ACT. A vehement violation by Broadcasters or MSO of rules & regulations is to be challenged by coming to Delhi by the LMO, LCO. Small operators are virtually out of business due to this factor without getting any justice. We the operators although run from pillar to post in local level for justice, the Local administration is incapable to solve the issues either due ignorance of the laws or shortfalls of CABLE TV & TRAI ACT. The only option left to the smallest operator is to approach



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TDAST or compromise at local level in mercy of opponent. Justice is denied.

That Sir, we would herby appeal for considering action from your side to protect the livelihood of thousands of educated unemployed youths being involved in cable tv industry as MSO, LMO/LCO for more than a decade. In this regard, may we request you to initiate the following measures that shall enable us to get a boost in our struggle to continue our business of cable tv in this era of stiff market competition.

- a) To take up with State Government for initiating steps for proper implementation of the provisions of CABLE TV & TRAI ACT.
- b) To take up with TRAI to conduct seminars & training program in remote areas of Assam, including Guwahati for gearing up the operators & State Government by creating awareness of provisions of DAS implementation.
- c) To instruct State Government to constitute a task force for implementation of rules & regulations of TRAI, DAS, CABLE TV Act in proper sense in field comprising of all the stake holders.
- d) To allow continuation of Analog transmission & extend period of complete DAS until a perfect situation in the ground ensuring protection of rights of all stake holders in the process of digitization is ensured.



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- e) To take measures for setting up branch of TRAI, TDSAT in Guwahati for convenience of all stake holders including the smallest operator of North East so that justice is ensured to everyone.
- f) To take up with Broadcasters of Pay Channels for providing special discounted rates for pay channels for entire North East & defense personnel.
- g) To give special tax rebates with financial aid to small operators for improving Networks, setting up own Digital Head Ends & purchasing Set Top Box for free implantation in respective Networks.
- h) To immediately take measures to check the illegal activities of MSO operating Digital Service in Assam & North East, who are not complying with the regulations of TRAI in this regard. No warranty, guarantee, money receipts of STB are provided in many cases.
- i) Last but not the least; Assam & North East is an industrially backward area lacking ample employment scope for the educated youth resulting in the grim law & order situation of the region. A special scheme or drive shall be initiated by the Ministry of I&B, Government of India to protect the cable tv industry which is generating self employment & service to common consumer in remote areas. Policy to make Cable TV Networks more worthy by helping operators to add value



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added services by providing requisite infrastructure at easy conditions must be formulated. The Government shall take all necessary measures to protect the Cable TV industry by considering protection of rights of small operators operating in remote areas.

Thanking You

Yours truly

(MD IQEBAL AHMED)
GENERAL SECRETARY, GGCTOA
CONVENOR,
CABLE TV OPERATORS FORUM,
ASSAM

Copy to:-

- 1. Sri Tarun Gogoi, Honorable Chief Minister, Assam**
- 2. Smt Supriya Sahu, Under Secretary, MIB**
- 3. Mr. R Khullar, Chairman, Trai.**
- 4. Smt. Roop Sarma, President, COFI.**

Enclosures:

Sl No	Particulars	Annexure No
01	Correspondence with MIB, TRAI of GGCTOA	T1-T5
02	Copy of Memorandum to Hon'ble CM, Assam	CM1-CM10
03	News Paper Cuttings reflecting agony of Cable TV Operators	NP1-NP47



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Iqbal Ahmed honouring Sh. Prakash Javadekar in traditional style



Assam Operators also met COFI President Roop Sharma