

Honourable Speaker Sir,

The surplus as per Modified Budget Estimates for the year 2009-2010 will be Rs. 47.76 crore.

I now present the tax proposal for the year 2009-2010.

**Entertainment
Tax
D.T.H.**

Entertainment Tax is levied on cable T.V. at present. Cable T.V. is a source of entertainment essentially for the poor and middle class people of urban and rural areas who pay Entertainment Tax for the same.

Entertainment Tax is presently not levied on Direct To Home (D.T.H.) facility available on T.V. connections. Generally, rich and well-to-do people of society take the benefit of D.T.H. facility. This leads to injustice to the poor and middle class people and also creates avoidable imbalance in the society. A large number of representations have been received from Cable T.V. operators regarding the lack of a level playing field.

Considering all these factors, I propose to levy Entertainment Tax on Direct To Home facility available on T.V. I also propose that a rate of tax of Rs. 200 per connection, per year, be levied.

A Bill proposing necessary amendments in The Gujarat Entertainments Tax Act, will be presented in the House, during the current session.

In the current economic scenario, considering the fiscal necessities and responsibilities of the State, it would be appropriate to maintain status quo as regards the remaining tax provisions, for the present.

Conclusion

The final position of Modified Budget Estimates for the year 2009-2010 will be as under :

(Rupees in crore)			
(1)	Surplus as per Modified Budget Estimates.	(+)	47.76
(2)	Proposed increase in tax.	(+)	6.00
(3)	Estimated overall surplus.	(+)	53.76

I commend the Budget for the consideration of this august House.
