

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6504
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
TASK FORCE FOR CAS - AIR/DD
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the task force set up by the Ministry for Conditional Access System (CAS) of broadcasting has finalised a multi-tier structure of delivery;
- (b) if so, whether the committee has also finalised the specification of the set-top box used for conditional access;
- (c) whether the committee has also decided that the free-to-air channels would be broadcast on a basic tier where the subscriber will have to pay a nominal charges as per subscriber basis; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which these steps have helped the broadcasting system in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c): The main recommendations of the Task Force set up to examine all aspects related to Conditional Access System (CAS) are –

- i) The Conditional Access System and the supportive Subscriber Management System should be mandated under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.
- ii) The Set Top Box (STB) shall be required only for `Pay` Channels and the Basic tier of `Free-to-Air` channels shall be receivable by the subscribers in the current mode without the use of STB.
- iii) The technical parameters of STB shall conform to the Indian standards, to be prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- iv) Unauthorised viewing/distribution/redistribution of the broadcast signal should be made a cognizable offence.
- v) The Government should regulate the price of `Basic Tier` of `Free-to-Air` channels. The Government will also make a provision for the channels of the Public Service broadcaster.
- vi) There should be no requirement for change of the receiving set, irrespective of whether the consumer chooses to watch `Free-to-Air` channels and/or `Pay` channels.

(d): The introduction of an addressable System for Pay channel viewing through the cable system would give choice to the consumer to pay for only those channels that he chooses to view and would bring transparency in the viewership figures.