

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6725
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
CAS FOR T.V. VIEWERS
A.P. JITHENDER REDDY;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

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

- (a) whether Conditional Access System for television viewers is to be introduced from July 14, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether the Government will insist for routing of pay channels through set top boxes in the CAS regime;
- (c) whether the Government have decided on the maximum price band for the free-to-air TV channels;
- (d) if so, whether number of cable operators have placed orders for the set-top-boxes;
- (e) whether broadcasters are set to force postponement of CAS implementation because of likely decline in viewership; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4A of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has notified 15th January, 2003 as the date within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/re-transmit programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system in the four metro cities, namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter a set top box will be required to view the pay channels and not for free-to-air channels. Government has decided the monthly subscription for basic service tier of free-to-air channels and this is to be notified shortly.

(d): Informal discussions with MSO's reveal that orders for Set-Top-Boxes are being placed

(e) & (f): Government does not intend to postpone the date of CAS implementation.