

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3366
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2004
DISCONTINUATION OF CABLE IN SOUTH DELHI
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

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

- (a) whether recently the multi system operators discontinued the broadcasting of pay channels without Set Top Box in South Delhi immediately after the implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS);
- (b) if so, whether it is essential for every consumer to get Set Top Box installed;
- (c) if so, the current fixed price of each Set Top Box;
- (d) if not, the reason for discontinuing the broadcasting of pay channels without Set Top Box by multi system operators; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government against those multi system operators who are harassing the Consumers?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Pursuant to the order dated 4th December, 2003 passed by Delhi High Court, the multi-system operators decided to implement the Conditional Access System in Zone 1 of Delhi w.e.f. 15th December, 2003. The implementation of Conditional Access System was challenged in Delhi High Court by the Consumer Coordination Council, a consumer organization, in which the Delhi High Court has issued certain directives to the Government on 26th December, 03. A subscriber is required to install a Set Top Box for viewing pay channels in the notified area; whereas no set top box is required for watching free to air channels. The multi-system operators have offered various schemes for procurement of these boxes by the consumers (e.g. easy instalments, loan schemes, hire/outright purchase etc.). MSOs have also been advised to ensure the easy affordability and availability of the set top boxes to the consumers so as to ensure smooth implementation of Conditional Access System.

Meanwhile, the Government, through a notification dated 9th January, 2004, brought the broadcasting services and cable services under the ambit of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Act, 1997, wherein the functions of TRAI have been laid down. The TRAI has also been assigned additional functions, which, inter alia, include making recommendations regarding the terms and conditions on which addressable system (STBs) shall be provided to the customers and the parameters for regulating maximum time for advertisements in pay channels as well as other channels.