

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2219

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006

CEILING ON PRICES OF CHANNELS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppasamy;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

(a) whether the Ministry has issued instruction to the multi-system operators to offer set top boxes on rental basis with a refundable security deposit to enable consumers to return the box, if they moved out of the Conditional Access System (CAS) notified area;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the multi-system operators thereon;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has fixed overall ceiling on price of individual channels so that the consumers do not have to bear unnecessary high burden; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b): Cable Television Networks (Second Amendment) Rules 2006 notified on 31st July, 2006 has provided for scheme to be approved by the TRAI regarding supply and installation of set top boxes. TRAI has issued a consultation paper on mandating a standard tariff package for supply of Set Top Boxes (STBs) in CAS notified areas.

(c): TRAI has not fixed any ceiling on the prices of individual channels. However, vide TRAI's notification dated 15.01.2004, price ceiling has been fixed with reference to the prices prevailing as on 26.12.2003. TRAI has intimated that it has started consultation process for deciding the tariff of pay channels in CAS notified areas.

(d): In terms of the Cable Television Networks (Second Amendment) Rules 2006, TRAI is empowered to fix maximum retail price of pay channels.