

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1330
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
POOR QUALITY TELECASTING OF DD CHANNELS
Sharma Dr. Arvind Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints that cable and Direct-to-Home (DTH) operators are either not telecasting DD Channels including Lok Sabha Television at all or where telecasting , the quality of telecast is unsatisfactory ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any step to regulate cable and DTH subscription rates in the country including in rural areas; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. JATUA)

(a) and (b) : The Government has received complaints of non-carriage of notified DD channels by Cable operators and DTH operators. On receipt of such complaints, the concerned authorized officers have been directed to take necessary action ensuring carriage of these channels. The DTH operators have been directed to provide these DD channels as per the provisions of the license agreements. Government has issued instructions from time to time for ensuring enforcement of provisions of Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and carriage of notified channels in proper manner by the cable operators.

(c) and (d): Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been regulating the rates of cable and broadcasting services as per the provisions of Section 11(2) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. For regulating the subscription rates of cable TV services in the mandated conditional access system (CAS) areas and non-CAS areas, tariff orders have been issued by TRAI. The tariff order for CAS areas provide a ceiling of Rs. Eighty Two per subscriber per month excluding taxes for basic service tier comprising at least thirty free to air TV channels and a ceiling of Rs. Five and thirty paise only per pay channel per subscriber per month exclusive of taxes. However the tariff order for non-CAS areas provides a ceiling at subscriber level based on a number of channels and category of habitation. These tariff orders are available at the website (www.trai.gov.in) of the TRAI. As far as subscription rates for Direct -to- Home (DTH) services are concerned, TRAI has at present not notified any tariff order.