

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3817
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010
CHARGES OF PAY CHANNELS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recently informed the Hon'ble Supreme Court of its plans to cap the monthly cable charges at Rs.250 across the country, except where Conditional Access System is implemented;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the viewers would be able to choose only those channels they want to watch rather than paying for a bouquet of channels as provided by the broadcasters;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the cable services is likely to provide three pricing slabs;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether TRAI proposes to allow the broadcasters to raise the price of their channels;and
- (h) if so, the extent to which additional financial burden is likely to be borne by the viewers?

Answer

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

(a) to (h) : Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has informed that as per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 13.05.2009 in the matter of Civil Appeal Nos.829-833 (TRAI vs. Set Discovery India Pvt. Ltd. & Ors) a report on tariff issues related to Cable TV services in non-CAS areas, has been submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court on 21.07.2010. The matter is sub-judice. In the report submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court, there is a proposal of 3 slabs for monthly Cable TV charges that are as under:

- (a) Minimum thirty free to air channels – Maximum of Rs.100/- only
- (b) Minimum thirty free to air channels – Not exceeding of Rs.200/-only and upto 20 pay channels.
- (c) Minimum thirty Free to Air Channels – Not exceeding Rs.250/- only and more than 20 pay channels.

Further, in non-addressable Cable TV system, due to technology constraints, the subscribers are not able to subscribe to individual channels of their choice. The report submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court also contains the proposal for inflation linked increase of 9%, for Broadcasters. However, maximum monthly cable TV charges at the consumer level are to be capped at the respective slab charges.