

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3025
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
SET TOP BOX
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has notified that it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit programmes of any channels in an encrypted form through a digital addressable system;
- (b) if so, whether the consumers/ subscribers have to purchase set top box themselves or the cable service provider/operator has to provide them to the consumers;
- (c) the cost fixed for setting up of a set top box to be charged from the consumer by the operator in each of the metro city including Delhi, city-wise;
- (d) the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government against the operators who are charging exorbitant rate for the set top box from the consumers; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/ being taken to check the exorbitant cost of the set top box being charged by the operators arbitrarily?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) As per section 4A (1) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2011, it is obligatory for every cable operator to transmit or re-transmit programmes of any channels in an encrypted form through a digital addressable system with effect from such date as notified by the Central Government. The Ministry, vide its notification dated 11.11.2011, had notified sunset dates for implementing digitalization with addressability in the cable TV services in a phased manner, leading to complete switch off of analogue services by 31st December, 2014. The set top box has to be purchased by the subscribers themselves.

(c) to (e) The Government has not fixed the cost of Set Top Boxes (STBs) as the cost of STB has to be determined by market forces. It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that due to competition between various Multi-System Operators (MSOs), the cost of STBs is quite competitive and affordable. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), has identified the issues that need to be addressed through a regulatory regime which inter-alia include tariff, interconnection and Quality of Service issues for the digital addressable regime. A consultation paper titled "Issues related to implementation of Digital Addressable Cable TV systems" concerning these issues was released on 22.12.2011. After receipt of the comment/views/counter- comments, an open house discussion (OHD) with the stakeholders was also held on 13.03.2012. Based on the comments/ views of stakeholders and analysis thereof, the regulatory provisions on the aspects of tariff, interconnection and Quality of Service for the digital addressable regime are under process of finalisation.