

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6296
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
FEE CHARGED BY DTH/CABLE OPERATORS
Singh Shri Ratan;Singh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether there is no set tariff arrangement for payment of distribution fee charged by the Direct-to-Home(DTH) and cable TV operators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the growth of television industry in the country is distorted by entry barriers at the distribution level due to exorbitant distribution fee charged by DTH and cable TV operators;
- (d) if so, whether small and medium sized ventures are facing difficulty in being aired to the national DTH or digital cable viewership in the country; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide infrastructure network for equitable and efficient handling of contents generated by small and medium ventures?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Digital Addressable Cable Television Systems) Regulations, 2012 issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 30.4.2012 provides a regulatory framework for Digital Addressable Cable Television Systems. While there is no provision for payment of distribution fee, there are regulations for carriage fee in digital addressable cable TV systems, which are as under :-

(i) A multi system operator, who seeks single of a particular TV channel from a broadcaster, shall not demand carriage fee for carrying that channel on its distribution platform.

(ii) Every multi system operator shall publish in its Reference Interconnect Offer the carriage fee for carrying a channel of a broadcaster for which no request has been made by the multi system operator:

Provided that the carriage fee shall be uniform for all the broadcasters and the same shall not be revised upwards for a minimum period of two years from the date of publication in the Interconnect Offer.

TRAI, in its regulations dated 30.4.2012, has justified the carriage fee in view of the substantial investment required to be made by Multi System Operator (MSO) for the implementation of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS).

(c) The Interconnect Regulations have a provision wherein TRAI can intervene in case it is felt that the carriage fee being charged by MSO is unreasonable. This will serve as a safeguard against any distortion.

(d) & (e) Although certain concerns have been raised by some stakeholders, these appear to be early reactions since MSOs are yet to publicise their rates of carriage fee, if any.