

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7460

ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012

CARRIAGE FEE CHARGED BY BROADCASTERS

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued any notification allowing multi system operators of the country to charge carriage fees from broadcasters;
- (b) if so, whether any new system has been implemented vide this notification;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it has been opposed by certain sectors/stakeholders in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the sectors which have opposed this move and the basis of their opposition?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has notified the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Digital Addressable Cable Television Systems) Regulations, 2012 on 30th April, 2012. The matter relating to charging of carriage fee by the multi system operator has been dealt in these regulations. The relevant provisions thereof are :-

(i) A multi system operator, who seeks signal 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.

(iii) Every multi system operator shall, within thirty days from the date of commencement of these regulations publish its Reference Interconnect Offer specifying the technical and commercial terms and conditions for providing access to its network by the broadcaster and submit a copy to the Authority

(iv) Every person or firm or company who begins its services as multi system operator shall, before providing its services, publish its Reference Interconnect Offer specifying the technical and commercial terms and conditions for providing access to its network by the broadcaster and submit a copy to the Authority

(v) Every Reference Interconnect Offer submitted to the Authority shall also contain the basis on which the carriage fee payable by the broadcaster has been determined.

(vi) Further, the regulation provides that the Authority may, in order to protect the interest of the consumer and the service provider and to promote and ensure orderly growth of broadcasting and cable services, direct the service provider to modify its Reference Interconnect Offer.

During the consultation process undertaken by the Authority before formulating the above mentioned interconnection regulations, the News Broadcasters Association expressed the view that carriage fee should be regulated and if must carry is mandated, the question of carriage fee does not arise. This has been discussed in the Explanatory Memorandum attached to the above regulations.