

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6535
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
CHANNELS OFFERED UNDER CAS
Patel Shri Devji

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

- (a) whether the Consultation paper for implementing Conditional Access System (CAS) provides that the subscribers would have the freedom to select their channels but the operators are not giving the option of selecting bouquet of channels to the subscribers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the subscribers are not interested in viewing more than 90 per cent of the channels offered to them under CAS package; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the viewers are likely to get the freedom to select channels?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) to (d): Conditional Access System (CAS) was implemented in the notified cities of Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata from 31st December 2006 while the same was implemented in Chennai since 2003. The CAS was replaced with Digital Addressable System (DAS) by amending the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in 2011. The Ministry vide its notification S.O. No. 2534(E) dated 11.11.2011 has notified dates for implementation of Digital Addressable System (DAS) in four phases.

The manner of offering of channels and tariff while providing cable TV services using digital addressable cable TV systems has been prescribed through the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Fourth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff (First Amendment) Order dated 30.04.2012. As per this tariff order, the service provider is mandated to offer all channels, available on its platform, on a-la-carte basis. In addition to this, they are free to offer channels as a part of bouquet(s). They can price and package their channels as per their business plan.

Operators of addressable platforms are mandated to offer a Basic Service Tier (BST) consisting of a minimum of 100 Free to Air (FTA) channels, at a maximum price of Rs 100/- per month (excluding taxes). However, it is optional for the consumer to subscribe to it or not. Further in lieu of BST, consumer can also subscribe upto 100 FTA channels of their choice carried over the platform, at a maximum of Rs. 100/- per month (excluding taxes). Clause 6 (1D) of the said tariff order provides that consumer can opt for only BST or only FTA channels or only pay channels or any combination of these as per his choice and budget. The said tariff order provides protection to consumers against increase in prices.