

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3760
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014
HIKE IN TARIFFS BY DTH OPERATORS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Direct-to-Home (DTH) operators are arbitrarily hiking the tariffs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has imposed/proposes to impose any cap on tariff hike/ revision taking in view the problems being faced by the subscribers due to such frequent and arbitrary hike in tariff;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The tariff applicable for the broadcasting and cable TV services is governed by tariff orders notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time, which are available at TRAI's website <http://www.trai.gov.in>. The tariff for the Direct-to-Home services (DTH) is governed by the Telecommunication (Broadcasting & Cable) Services (Fourth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2010 dated 21st July, 2010, as amended from time to time. As per said tariff order, DTH operators are free to price and package their services, based on their business model subject to certain conditions prescribed in the said tariff order. To protect the interests of consumers, a provision (clause 8) has been made in the said tariff order which prescribes that no service provider, who provides broadcasting services or cable services using an addressable system to its subscribers, shall, increase the charges for a subscription package offered by him, for a minimum period of six months from the date of enrolment of the subscriber for such subscription package. Clause 6(4) of the said tariff order provides that it shall be open to the service provider to specify a minimum monthly subscription, not exceeding one hundred and fifty rupees (exclusive of taxes) per month per subscriber, towards channels chosen by the subscriber, either a-la-carte or bouquet, for availing the services of such service provider. It is obligatory on the part of DTH service providers to adhere to TRAI's tariff orders.