

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:805
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
COMMERCIAL SUBSCRIBERS OF CABLE TV
Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a Consultation Paper on Tariff issues related to Broadcasting and Cable TV Services for Commercial subscribers;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the issue of tariff for commercial subscribers has been under judicial scrutiny; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard and the status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper namely "Tariff Issues related to Broadcasting and Cable TV Services for Commercial Subscribers" on 11.06.2014, soliciting the comments/views of all the stakeholders on the issues pertaining to various alternatives for tariff stipulations for the commercial subscribers, manner of offering of TV services, definition of "commercial subscribers", "commercial establishment" and "shops", and the sub-categorisation of the commercial subscribers into similarly placed groups. Details are available at TRAI website www.traai.gov.in

(c) & (d) The issue of Tariff for commercial subscribers has been under judicial scrutiny since 2005. Based on the interim order dated 19-10-2006 of Hon'ble Supreme Court, TRAI issued two Tariff amendment orders on 21-11-2006 applicable to Commercial Subscribers in CAS and non-CAS areas, which were challenged before Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). The Hon'ble Tribunal vide its order dated 28.05.2010 had struck down these orders. Against TDSAT order, an appeal was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 16.04.2014, directed that the impugned tariff, which is in force as on today, shall continue for a period of three months. Within the said period, TRAI shall look into the matter de novo, as directed in the impugned judgment and shall re-determine the tariff after hearing the contentions of all the stake holders. Accordingly, TRAI has issued Consultation Paper in this regard.