

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2142
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014
IRREGULARITIES IN BROADCASTING OF PROGRAMMES
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are irregularities in changing of broadcasting rate on various TV channels by broadcasters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities by TV channels;
- (c) whether the subscribers has to pay for those TV channels also which are not viewed by them; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not implementing any new broadcasting rates by the Government for the benefit of the subscribers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.))

(a) to (d) Tariff and Pricing of TV channels are governed by tariff orders of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued from time to time. Tariff are prescribed at two levels- at the wholesale and retail. At the wholesale, broadcaster prescribes the rate for its channel for distribution platform operators {Direct-to-Home (DTH) operator, Multi-system Operator (MSO)/cable operator, Head-end-in-the-sky (HITS) operator etc.}. The rate at retail level i.e. the charge a subscriber has to pay to subscribe a channel is prescribed by the distribution platform operator.

As per the said tariff order, it is mandatory for the service providers to offer all channels (pay and free to air) on a-la-carte basis to subscribers. The tariff order further provides that the operators digital addressable cable TV system would offer to consumers a Basic-Service-Tier (BST) comprising of minimum 100 free-to-air (FTA) channels at a maximum charge of Rs. 100/-(excluding taxes) per subscriber per month. It is also open to the subscriber to choose to BST or/ and one or more pay channel or only FTA channels or only pay channels or pay channels and FTA channels. If a digital addressable cable TV subscriber subscribes to pay channels, in a-la-carte or bouquet or a combination of a-la-carte and bouquet, with or without FTA channels, the operator can charge a minimum monthly subscription not exceeding Rs. 150/- per month (excluding taxes). However, if the total value of the channels/bouquets opted by the subscriber exceeds the said limit, then the actual subscription charges are to be paid by the subscriber. In the non-addressable system, a subscriber, due to technological limitations, cannot choose channels of his choice and, therefore, has to pay for the complete bundle of channels that its operator offers to it.