

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1281  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005  
CHARGES FOR PAY CHANNELS  
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether some TV broadcasting companies have started charging huge amount from the cable operators in the country for the pay channels;
- (b) if so, whether they have got any permission from the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the Government's reaction in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) to (d): The charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators and by cable operators to multi system operators/broadcasters are being regulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The charges have been frozen at the levels of 26.12.2003. To allow for inflation, these charges have been allowed an increase upto 7% with effect from 1.1.2005. These ceilings do not apply to pay channels, which have come up after 26.12.2003 or to Free to Air (FTA) channels converted to pay channels after 26.12.2003. However, TRAI has specified that rates of these channels must be similar to the rates of similar channels, as on 26.12.2003 and these must be provided on a stand-alone basis either individually or as a part of new separate bouquets. In terms of the Tariff order of 1.10.2004 the broadcasters of new pay channel(s) that have been introduced after 26.12.2003 or of any channels(s) that was free to air channel on 26.12.2003 and is/are converted to a pay channels subsequently, are required to furnish to the Authority information in respect of charges for these channels.

The TV broadcasting companies have to comply with the requirements of the above Tariff Orders issued by TRAI, from time to time, which are available on its website ([www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in)).