

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3456

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE FOR TV CHANNELS

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to fix Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for TV channels alongwith Conditional Access System (CAS) in metropolitan cities in the country as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' of April 7, 2006;
- (b) if so, whether different prices are being charged from subscribers in metropolitan cities by cable operators;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not controlling/taking action against such cable operators by the Government; and
- (d) the time by which approval for fixing Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for TV channels is likely to be accorded?

**Answer**

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

- (a): The Government has undertaken a number of meetings with the stakeholders on 27.3.2006, 31.3.2006, 3.4.2006 & 7.4.2006 to discuss the issues relating to cable TV which includes CAS. There was a strong view from the industry partners such as MSOs, cable operators and consumers as well, that Government should fix the Maximum Retail Price for TV channels.
- (b): TRAI had frozen the charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators, cable operators to MSOs/Broadcaster and MSO to broadcasters as prevalent on 26.12.2003 through a tariff order dated 15.1.2004. These tariff orders have been amended from time to time only to take care of inflation of costs.
- (c): In view of (b) above question of action does not arise.
- (d): Fixing of Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for TV channels will fall in the domain of TRAI as the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 does not provide for fixation of MRP.