

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:731

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007

SHORTAGE OF SET TOP BOX

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

- (a) whether the Conditional Access System (CAS) has been implemented fully in Delhi and some other cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the monthly charges to be paid for viewing cable TV through CAS/Dish TV and without CAS;
- (c) the reaction of the Cable Operators thereto;
- (d) the number of cities in which Set Top Boxes Scheme has been introduced by the Government;
- (e) whether there is acute shortage of Set Top Boxes required under the CAS in the country;
- (f) if so, the measures being taken to tackle the situation; and
- (g) the names of the companies making available Set Top Boxes?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c) & (d): Yes Sir. Conditional Access System (CAS) has been implemented in the notified areas of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has on 31.8.2006 fixed Rs. 77/- plus taxes as the monthly charges payable by subscribers for viewing basic service tier consisting of minimum of 30 free to air channels and no additional payment for additional free to air channels offered. Under the CAS system, the subscriber will pay for only those pay channels which are viewed by them and for that maximum retail price has been fixed at Rs.5/- per pay channel per month excluding taxes. Rental schemes of Set Top Boxes has also been notified in the said order. For non -CAS areas, the Tariff order dated 1.10.2004 prescribes that price payable by a subscriber is as was prevailing on 26.12.2003 with the subsequent enhancement of 7%. If any new pay channels are added after 26.12.2003, then there is provision for increase of subscription charges. With respect to Direct -to-Home services no prices have been prescribed by TRAI. All stakeholders including the cable operators have participated in implementation process of CAS scheme.

(e): No , Sir.

(f): Does not arise.

(g): Neither the Government nor TRAI have prescribed any agency from whom STBs can be procured nor any list of suppliers is maintained. However TRAI has prescribed in its regulation dated 23.8.2006 that the STBs supplied should conform to the standards prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on STBs.