

1	2	3	4	5
4	Zee News	95	0.04	0.35
5	NDTV India	61	0.03	0.23
6	NDTV 24x7	17	0.01	0.06
7	CNN IBN	23	0.01	0.08
8	CNBC TV18	18	0.01	0.07
9	Times Now	24	0.01	0.09
10	Zee Business	10	0.00	0.04
11	News 24	42	0.02	0.15

**MRP for cable connection**

1888. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no specific provision is there for Maximum Retail Price (MRP) per cable connection in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995;

(b) whether in the absence of this provision, no uniform MRP for cable connection is being followed by the cable operators in the country;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act to avoid heavy competition among cable operators and stabilize the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHARY MOHAN JATUA): (a) As per the provisions of the Section 4A(4) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government may by gazette notification in public interest, specify the maximum amount which a cable operator may demand from the subscriber for receiving the programmes transmitted in the basic service tier provided by such cable operator. Further under Section 11(2) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is empowered to fix rates of telecom services which service providers can charge from the subscriber.

(b) The TRAI vide its Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Second) Tariff Order, 2004 dated 1st October 2004 as amended from time to time, has prescribed ceilings at consumer level for cable TV charges in non-CAS areas. The ceilings (excluding taxes) prescribed

are based on the number of pay channels and free-to-air (FTA) channels being transmitted or retransmitted for different categories of cities, towns and other habitations through the Cable Television Network. TRAI vide its Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Third) (CAS Areas) Tariff Order, 2006 (6 of 2006) dated the 31st August, 2006 as amended from time to time, has prescribed a ceiling of Rs.5.35/- (excluding taxes) per pay channel per month for CAS notified areas of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. A ceiling of Rs.82/- (excluding taxes) for a minimum of 30 Free-to-Air (FTA) channels has also been prescribed for CAS notified areas.

(c) The Government has received the proposals from the State Government of Maharashtra seeking certain amendment in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. So far as proposal for fixing MRP per cable connection is concerned, it does not require any action at the moment in view of reply to part (a) & (b) above.

(d) The amendment of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 in the light of recommendations of the TRAI regarding restructuring of cable services received by the Government is under consideration of the Government. The proposals of the State Government will be taken into consideration while deciding the matter.

#### **Coverage of FM service**

1889. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of coverage of FM service in the country; and

(b) the details of the cities and towns not covered by FM service, so far, and the time taken to cover those places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) At present FM broadcasting service of All India Radio (AIR) is being provided from 172 transmitters. 24.68% area and 35.84% population of the country is covered by AIR FM broadcasting service. In addition, 248 FM radio stations are providing service through private operators under FM Phase-I and Phase-II Policy.

(b) There are 630 districts in the country. Out of these 240 districts are fully or partly getting the FM service of AIR. Thus balance 390 districts are not covered under AIR FM coverage now. The list of uncovered districts is given in the Statement (See below). Coverage of 126 more districts is included in the 11th Plan.