

Offer the carriage fee for carrying a channel of a broadcaster for which no request has been made by the multi system operator.

Provided that the carriage fee shall be uniform for all the broadcasters and the same shall not be revised upwards for a minimum period of two years from the date of publication in the Interconnect Offer.

- (iii) Every multi system operator shall, within thirty days from the date of commencement of these regulations publish its Reference Interconnect Offer specifying the technical and commercial terms and conditions for providing access to its network by the broadcaster and submit a copy to the Authority.
- (iv) Every person or firm or company who begins its services as multi system operator shall, before providing its services, publish its Reference Interconnect Offer specifying the technical and commercial terms and conditions for providing access to its network by the broadcaster and submit a copy to the Authority.
- (v) Every Reference Interconnect Offer submitted to the Authority shall also contain the basis on which the carriage fee payable by the broadcaster has been determined.
- (vi) Further, the regulation provides that the Authority may, in order to protect the interest of the consumer and the service provider and to promote and ensure orderly growth of broadcasting and cable services, direct the service provider to modify its Reference Interconnect Offer.

(c) and (d) The provisions of the interconnection regulations will bring in transparency in the business transactions between service providers of the broadcasting sector which would ultimately benefit the sector as a whole including consumers.

Smoking scenes in films

4872. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the Central Board of Film Certification to maintain status quo and adhere to the certification process as was being done before the issue of latest notification regarding smoking scenes in films;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many organizations involved in the health sector has asked Government to ban smoking scene in films;

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) Several filmmakers and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) brought to the notice of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting some practical difficulties being faced by them in implementing the Tobacco Notification No. GSR 786(E) dated 27.10.2011. In the light of this, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is in discussion with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to revise the Notification.

(c) Only one representation was received from Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), New Delhi in respect of Notification No.GSR 786(E) dated 27.10.2011.

(d) Same answer as (a) and (b) above.

Categorisation of news items

†4873. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether many sensational and vulgar programs telecast on various news channels fall under the category of news;

(b) if so, the details of the norms laid down by Government for news channels; and

(c) whether all the news channels are telecasting news as per the laid down norms and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) The telecast of programmes by private satellite/cable television channels is regulated by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Act does not provide for pre-censorship of the programmes telecast by such TV channels. However, it provides that all programmes telecast by these TV channels should be in accordance with the Programme Code, which has been laid down in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. The said Programme Code is applicable to all private satellite/cable television channels including news channels. The Programme Code lays down a whole range

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi