

**Mandatory set top boxes for viewing TV channels**

\*88. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made set top boxes mandatory for viewing TV channels across the country;
- (b) if so, how many metro cities have been covered in the first phase and how many would be covered in the second phase;
- (c) how much revenue Government has earned on each set top box; and
- (d) whether Government is mulling to provide subsidy to the families who can't afford to install set top boxes and pay monthly subscription?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) and (b) Section 4A(1) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, makes it obligatory for every cable operator to transmit or re-transmit programmes of any channel in an encrypted form through a digital addressable system with effect from such date as notified by the Central Government. Accordingly, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, *vide* its notification dated 11.11.2011, has notified dates for implementing Digital Addressable System (DAS) in the Cable TV sector in four phases. In the digital addressable systems, Cable TV subscribers require Set Top Box (STB) to watch television. For viewing Doordarshan channels available in terrestrial mode, no STB is required. Implementation of DAS was substantially completed in 3 out of the planned 4 metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata by the mandated timeline of 31st October, 2012. In Chennai, the matter is sub-judice in the High Court of Madras. In second phase of DAS, 38 cities with a population more than one million are included.

- (c) The procurement and distribution of Set Top Boxes (STBs) is done by the industry.
- (d) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government. Multi System Operators (MSOs) are, however, mandated to offer STBs on outright purchase, rental or hire purchase as per the convenience of the consumers.

**Prices of vegetables**

\*89. SHRIMATI KUSUMRAI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of rise in prices of vegetables during the last three months;