GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1366
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021)

NEW TARIFF ORDER 2.0.

1366. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

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

(a) the details of a dispute between Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation and TRAI on New Tariff Order 2.0;

 (b) whether Supreme Court has given its final verdict;

 (c) if so, the details of the verdict; and

 (d) the details of the New Tariff Order 2.0 norms and the manner in which the broadcasters are trying to tweak this?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c) : The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 01.01.2020 notified the "New Regulatory Framework 2020". Some broadcasters and other stakeholders including Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF) challenged the New Regulatory Framework 2020 in various High Courts, including the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay. Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay, vide its Judgement dated 30th June 2021 upheld the validity of New Regulatory Framework 2020 except for the condition of average test. Aggrieved by the above-mentioned judgement dated 30.6.2021, the petitioners therein filed Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) in the Supreme Court. So far no final verdict has been passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d): Some of the salient features of the New Tariff Order (NTO) are reduction of ceiling price on MRP of pay channels for inclusion in bouquet from Rs. 19/- to Rs. 12/-; number of bouquets of pay channels not to be more than number of pay channels offered by a broadcaster; increase in number of Standard Definition (SD) channels from 100 to 200 in the Network Capacity Fee (NCF) of maximum Rs. 130/- per month and more than 200 SD channels in the NCF of maximum Rs. 160/- per month etc. The broadcasters are yet to come out with their final tariffs orders as per NTO.

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