

Chapter V**Summary of Issues for Consultation**

Q1. Do you agree that flexibility available to broadcasters to give discount on sum of a-la-carte channels forming part of bouquets has been misused to push their channels to consumers? Please suggest remedial measures.

Ans : Yes it has been misused. No bouquets should be allowed. If there is discount on bouquets it means MRP of individual channels are high. MRP of such channels should be reduced.

Q2. Do you feel that some broadcasters by indulging in heavy discounting of bouquets by taking advantage of non implementation of 15% cap on discount, have created a non-level field vis-a-vis other broadcasters?

Ans : Yes

Q3. Is there a need to reintroduce a cap on discount on sum of a-lacarte channels forming part of bouquets while forming bouquets by broadcasters? If so, what should be appropriate methodology to work out the permissible discount? What should be value of such discount?

Ans : No discount should be allowed. MRP of individual channels should be reduced to match bouquets prices.

Q4. Is there a need to review the cap on discount permissible to DPOs while forming the bouquet? If so, what should be appropriate methodology to work out the permissible discount? What should be value of such discount?

Ans : No discounts.

Q5. What other measures may be taken to ensure that unwanted channels are not pushed to the consumers?

Ans : No restrictions as long as unwanted channels are free and not counted in 100 channels.

Q6. Do you think the number of bouquets being offered by broadcasters and DPOs to subscribers is too large? If so, should the limit on number of bouquets be prescribed on the basis of state, region, target market?

Ans : If no discount then this will disappear.

Q7. What should be the methodology to limit number of bouquets which can be offered by broadcasters and DPOs?

Ans : Any channels should appear in 1 bouquets only.

Q8. Do you agree that price of individual channels in a bouquet get hedged while opting for a bouquet by subscribers? If so, what corrective measures do you suggest?

Ans : No discounting. MRP should match individual price of bouquets.

Q9. Does the ceiling of Rs. 19/- on MRP of a a-la-carte channel to be part of a bouquet need to be reviewed? If so, what should be the ceiling for the same and why?

Ans : MRP should be reduced to Rs 14. This is because bouquets are normally 40% cheaper than sum of individual channels. It means MRP is high today.

Q10. How well the consumer interests have been served by the provisions in the new regime which allows the Broadcasters/Distributors to offer bouquets to the subscribers?

Ans : Not well. Normally cablewala forces you to take bouquets only. I shifted to DTH because of this. Cablewala was also not giving the facility of removing and adding channels as per my wish.

Q11. How this provision has affected the ability and freedom of the subscribers to choose TV channels of their choice?

Ans : Facility to choose channels is available with DTH but not with cable operator.

Q12. Do you feel the provision permitting the broadcasters/Distributors to offer bouquets to subscribers be reviewed and how will that impact subscriber choice?

Ans : I do feel no discounts should be allowed. This will reduce MRP of highest channels to lower level.

Q13. How whole process of selection of channels by consumers can be simplified to facilitate easy, informed choice?

Ans : I am not facing any problem in selecting channels.

Q14. Should regulatory provisions enable discount in NCF and DRP for multiple TV in a home?

Ans : Yes

Q15. Is there a need to fix the cap on NCF for 2nd and subsequent TV connections in a home in multi-TV scenario? If yes, what should be the cap? Please provide your suggestions with justification.

Ans : The price for 2nd and subsequent TV connection should not exceed 50% of 1st TV. Or discount should be minimum 50%.

Q16. Whether broadcasters may also be allowed to offer different MRP for a multi-home TV connection? If yes, is it technically feasible for broadcaster to identify multi TV connection home?

Ans : Yes broadcaster can identify multi TV connections. Tata sky and airtel were giving discount but now it has been discontinued.

Q17. Whether Distributors should be mandated to provide choice of channels for each TV separately in Multi TV connection home?

Ans : Yes

Q18. How should a long term subscription be defined?

Ans : 6 months subscription at a time.

Q19. Is there a need to allow DPO to offer discounts on Long term subscriptions? If yes, should it be limited to NCF only or it could be on DRP also? Should any cap be prescribed while giving discount on long term subscriptions?

Ans : No discounts as this will be misused.

Q20. Whether Broadcasters also be allowed to offer discount on MRP for long term subscriptions?

Ans : No

Q21. Is the freedom of placement of channels on EPG available to DPOs being misused to ask for placement fees? If so, how this problem can be addressed particularly by regulating placement of channels on EPG?

Ans : Not applicable to me.

Q22. How the channels should be listed in the Electronic Program Guide (EPG)?

Ans : List of channels along with programs schedule.

Q23. Whether distributors should also be permitted to offer promotional schemes on NCF, DRP of the channels and bouquet of the channels?

Ans : No. They can always change MRP later. They can introduce it at no charge.

Q24. In case distributors are to be permitted, what should be the maximum time period of such schemes? How much frequency should be allowed in a calendar year?

Ans : Not allowed.

Q25. What safeguards should be provided so that consumers are not trapped under such schemes and their interests are protected?

Ans : Not allowed.

Q26. Whether DPOs should be allowed to have variable NCF for different regions? How the regions should be categorized for the purpose of NCF?

Ans : Should not be allowed.

Q27. In view of the fact that DPOs are offering more FTA channels without any additional NCF, should the limit of one hundred channels in the prescribed NCF of Rs. 130/- to be increased? If so, how many channels should be permitted in the NCF cap of Rs 130/-?

Ans : Rs 130 for 100 channels is OK.

Q28. Whether 25 DD mandatory channels be over and above the One hundred channels permitted in the NCF of Rs. 130/-?

Ans : Yes 25 DD channels should be extra as we have not opted for it. In case it is not possible to give 25 DD channels I would suggest you should allow people to choose 10 out of 25 as no one watches all DD channels.

Q29. In case of Recommendation to be made to the MIB in this regard, what recommendations should be made for mandatory 25 channels so that purpose of the Government to ensure reachability of these channels to masses is also served without any additional burden on the consumers?

Ans : Make 10 out of 25 DD channels mandatory and allow each individual to choose them.

Q30. Stakeholders may also provide their comments on any other issue relevant to the present consultation.

Ans : It should be compulsory for each service provider to give GST invoice for each customer. This can be sent on email.