

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3343  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.07.2019)**

**SET TOP BOX INTEROPERABILITY**

**3343. SHRI SRINIVAS KESINENI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to implement Set Top Box (STB) interoperability, wherein consumer can switch between different service provider without changing the set top box;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has initiated consultations with industry and other stake holders for an acceptable solution for STB; and**
- (d) the time frame by which the STB will come into effect?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

**(a) to (b): Presently, the Set Top Box (STB) provided by a service provider is tightly coupled with Conditional Access System (CAS) deployed by the Service Provider. The interoperability of STBs is a complex issue involving the issue of probable piracy of content. It**

**primarily needs to take care of disparate requirements such as technical neutrality, innovation, flexibility and low cost of STB etc. STBs in the market used different compression technique, Coding technique, Encryption system, Middleware and operating system. These technical options make it unique and complicate the interoperability.**

**(c) to (d): TRAI has taken up the issue relating to development of interoperable STBs in digital Television Broadcasting Sector that should be compatible across operators using same platforms. The matter involves a complex R&D (Research and Development) process to devise a widely acceptable solution among the stakeholders.**

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