

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**  
**Press Release No. 20 /2004**  
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Subject : TRAI decides of References for committee going to work on Regulation  
for Cable Television Service.

TRAI held a meeting on 25.02.2004 with the State Governments of Delhi Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu to discuss issues relating to cable services and various other problems faced by state governments in the implementation of CAS. Following this meeting, TRAI had decided to establish a special Committee comprising representatives of these state governments and TRAI, which would work on various issues relating to Cable Television and provide inputs to the Authority to finalise regulations in this regard.

**The terms of reference for the committee have now been decided which are given below:**

1. Suggest the norms for fixing rates (or ceiling rates) for cable subscribers/cable operators / Multi Service Operators for individual pay channels, bouquets thereof, and distribution of free-to-air channels.
2. Suggest regulation regarding rates of cable operators, including periodicity of change of monthly cable charges.
3. Suggest the principles for laying down limits as to the extent of bundling of pay channels to be allowed in order to ensure that Cable TV viewers have a genuine choice with regard to selection of pay channels
4. Formulate the standard terms and conditions under which set top boxes may be made available (sale/rental) to subscriber.
5. Suggest the conditions under which consumers may return set top boxes sold or rented to them by service providers and ask for refund..
6. Suggest the maximum advertising time to be permitted per hour on pay channels along with other conditions that are required to be imposed.
7. Examine the implications of gradual and voluntary introduction of set top boxes.
8. Any other measure, to ensure that CAS does not lead to exploitation of the consumer by the monopoly distribution channels.

Secretary (TRAI) would be the Chairman of the Committee. The first meeting of this committee is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> March'2004