

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:801

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001

AMENDMENTS IN MEDIA POLICY

ANANT GANGARAM GEETE;BAHADUR SINGH KOLI;BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;BRAHMANAND MANDAL;JASWANT SINGH YADAV;KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY;MAHBOOB ZAHEDI;PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY;SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

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

- (a) the details of the media policy of the Government at present;
- (b) whether the Government are considering limited amendments in the media policy by allowing Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media;
- (c) if so, the details of the amendments proposed in new media policy;
- (d) the reasons and circumstances which call for such amendments;
- (e) whether any objections have been raised against this move;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (g) the time by which the said amendments are likely to be made in the new policy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a):The Government has formulated guidelines to regulate electronic and film media. The Code for Commercial Broadcasting is applicable to AIR and Doordarshan. The uplinking policy of the Ministry permits all TV channels irrespective of their ownership to uplink from India provided they undertake to comply with the Code for Commercial Broadcasting. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act and Rules made thereunder regulate the content of television telecast through cable. All films, including advertisement films, intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines thereunder. In so far as the Print Media is concerned, the Government does not interfere in matters relating to the Press. The Press Council of India is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and inculcate principles of self-regulation among the Press.

(b) to (g):An exercise for introducing limited changes in the media policy by allowing Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media in so far as it relates to non-news and non-current affairs newspapers and periodicals is under consideration of the Government.