

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6579  
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003  
FDI IN PRINT MEDIA  
CHARAN DAS MAHANT;VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have taken a final decision in regard to FDI in Print Media;
- (b) if so, whether the notification have been issued in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have explored possibilities to get benefit of FDI in print media as to earn profit from the investment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise;
- (e) the details of foreign investors who have offered to invest in print media in various newspapers/magazines, country-wise;
- (f) the number of such proposals approved/rejected by the Government for FDI in print media;
- (g) whether the Government have failed to allay the apprehensions of the Print Media in regard to I.P.O. and equity; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) Yes, Sir. In partial modification of the policy being followed since 1955 in regard to foreign investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals, it has been decided to

(i) allow foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals,

(ii) allow publication of Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals.

(iii) allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 26% of paid up equity capital in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs, subject to suitable safeguards.

(b) The guidelines in this regard have been issued on 12th November 2002 and 21st November 2002 respectively.

(c) & (d): The recent policy changes regarding foreign investment in print media aim to bring in greater diversity among the dailies, open a window to international best practices in print media and also enable the Indian newspapers and periodicals to become comparable in quality with their international counterparts as also to benefit the youth, students, professionals and the scientific and technical community and readers interested in special subjects, by providing better and affordable access to specialist periodicals. It is too early to gauge the financial implications of the decision.

(e) No proposal seeking approval to fresh investment in print media in various newspapers/magazines from any foreign investors has been received so far.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) & (h): The concerns expressed in various quarters have been addressed while arriving at the decision of allowing FDI in print media.