

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:775

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005

GOM REPORT ON FDI IN PRINT MEDIA

Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) on the print media appointed on the question of allowing FDI in the Print media has submitted its reports; and

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations and the Government's decision thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the recommendations of Group of Ministers (GoM) and the Government's decision thereon, are Annexed.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.775 FOR REPLY ON 28.7.2005

(b): The GOM made the following recommendations to the Cabinet:-

(i) The proposed amendments to the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 may be agreed to.

(ii) The FDI ceiling of 26% may be retained, but investments by NRIs/ PIOs and portfolio investments by recognised FIIs may be included in the FDI limit.

(iii) Publication of facsimile editions of foreign newspapers may be allowed subject to certain conditions.

(iv) Indian edition of foreign newspapers may not be allowed.

(v) The present syndication limit of 7 1/2% of total printed area under automatic route may be increased to 20%. Cases above 20% limit may continue to be considered in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on case by case basis.

Based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM), the Government has decided to allow the following;

(a) the Foreign Direct Investment ceiling of 26% has been retained, but investments by Non Resident Indians/Person of Indian Origin and portfolio investments by recognized Foreign Institutional Investors has been included in the Foreign Direct Investment limits for the news and current affairs segment.

(b) the facsimile edition, in whole or in parts, of foreign newspapers has been allowed subject to the following conditions: -

(i) the facsimile edition, in whole or in parts, could be brought out by an Indian entity, with or without FDI, and also by foreign companies owning the original newspaper provided they get incorporated and registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956 and they comply with the Indian Laws.

(ii) the facsimile edition, in whole or in parts, is brought out with the approval of the regulatory authority of the country of origin and is a standard publication in that country and is not specially designed for Indian readers.

(iii) these facsimile editions, in whole or in parts, will not carry any advertisements aimed at Indian readers in any form.

(iv) prior permission from Ministry of I&B is obtained for publication of facsimile editions.

(c) Publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers continues to be prohibited.

(d) the present syndication limit of 7.5% of total printed area under automatic route has been increased to 20%. Cases above 20% limit will continue to be considered in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on case by case basis.