

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:447

ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008

NEW FM RADIO POLICY

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to remove the five year cap on change of ownership pattern in FM radio policy as reported in the Times of India dated 11 September, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the salient features of the proposed new policy; and
- (d) the time by which the new policy is likely to come into existence?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (ADDITIONAL CHARGE) (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (c) The Government has recently modified Clause 8.3 of policy guidelines on expansion of FM Broadcasting Services through Private Agencies (Phase II) with a view to promote the healthy growth of radio business. As per the modification, requests for transfer of shares for the purpose of creation of a subsidiary company, amalgamation of companies of the same group, de-merger of company etc. may be allowed within the period of five years, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions viz. majority shareholders/promoters would continue to hold at least 51% of the total shares, new entities to maintain their prescribed limit of FDI/ minimum prescribed net worth, signing of fresh agreement with Government on identical terms and conditions etc. Details of modification are available on the website (www.mib.nic.in) of this Ministry.

(d) The modified clause has come into existence with effect from 24.09.2008