

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:425

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010

FDI IN ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

(a) whether the Government has requested the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to review its earlier recommendations on foreign investment in the Electronic and Print Media Sector in the light of recent changes in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received the recommendations of TRAI;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the TRAI has proposed raising the ceiling of FDI in the Electronic and Print Media sector along with the carriage fees for services like Direct-to-Home, mobile TV and FM radio etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the recommendations of TRAI are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. JATUA)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Government has on 30.09.2009 made a reference to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under the TRAI Act for reviewing its earlier recommendations dated 26.4.2008 on foreign investment limits for broadcasting sector in the light of Press Note No. 2 and 4 (2009 Series) issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotions (DIPP) rationalizing calculation of foreign investment in various sectors including broadcasting services. The reference made for broadcasting services does not cover the issues of foreign investment in Print Media.

(b) to (e): TRAI has on 30.6.2010 submitted its recommendations on foreign investment in broadcasting services. These recommendations do not cover the foreign investment in Print media. The details of the recommendations are available on the website (www.trai.gov.in) of TRAI. Segment wise details indicating existing and recommended foreign investment limits are as under:

Segment	Existing foreign investment limits	Foreign investment limits recommended by TRAI
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DTH	49% with 20% cap on FDI	74%
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HITS	74%	74%
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Teleport	49%	74%
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Mobile TV Policy to be finalized	74%
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IPTV	49% in case service provider is cable operator and 74% in case service provider is telecom licensce	74%
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MSOs 49% 74% provided they undertake digitalization with addressability

Other MSOs 49% 49%

Local 49% 26%
Cable Operators

Downlinking 100% 100%
of TV Channels
and Uplinking
of Non-news
and current
affairs channels

Uplinking of 26% 26%
TV news&
current
affairs
Channels

FM Radio 20 % 26%

No recommendations have been made in respect of carriage fee in Direct -to-Home, mobile TV and FM radio etc. under these recommendations. The recommendations of TRAI are under examination. No time frame could be given in such policy matters.