

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:363
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
PUBLICATION OF FOREIGN NEWS MAGAZINES
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) the details of the guidelines for the Foreign Direct Investment in the print media;
- (b) whether the Government has approved the publication of foreign news magazines in partnership with Indian promoters ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the journalists and the domestic newspapers in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.363 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2011 REGARDING PUBLICATION OF FOREIGN NEWS MAGAZINES

As per the existing policy for foreign direct investment in print media, foreign investment upto 26% of the capital is allowed to the Indian companies publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs whereas FDI upto 100% is allowed in Indian companies publishing Scientific/Technical/Speciality magazines /periodicals/journals. The Government has allowed Indian publishing companies to bring out facsimile editions of foreign newspapers and 26% FDI is allowed in such cases. The foreign publishing house who owns the foreign newspaper is also allowed to bring out the facsimile edition of the foreign newspaper through its wholly-owned Indian subsidiary. The Government has allowed publication of Indian editions of foreign news magazines by the companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956. The investment in such companies would be permissible to foreign entities with sound credentials and international standing. The permission would also be subject to certain conditions such as 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the Indian company and all key Executives and Editorial staff have to be resident Indians.

As per the print media policy, foreign newspapers dealing mainly with news and current affairs are not being allowed to bring out Indian editions. Although the facsimile editions of foreign newspapers are allowed but they are not allowed to carry advertisements in any form aimed at Indian subscribers.

These policy measures including limited FDI in the news and current affairs sector of the Print media have benefitted the domestic newspaper industry.