

Bidders for FM licences

2728. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether the bidders for Delhi's FM licences have indicated their inability to pay licence fee by August 29th deadline;

(b) whether they have sought second extension of six months to pay the fees;

(c) whether Government has decided to extend the time limit or to cancel their bids and cash the guarantee; and

(d) whether FM licence holders are also asking Government's permission to allow them to install individual towers and transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The licencees of Delhi have asked for extension of time to set up their transmission facilities at colocated site and some have sought permission to setup interim individual radio stations. The licencees are required to colocate by the 29th August, 2002 and pay the balance of the annual licence fee in accordance with the terms and conditions of licence.

FDI in Direct-to-Home broadcasting service

2729. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether Government have failed to attract any substantial FDI in Direct-to-Home broadcasting service;

(b) if so, whether this was due to cap of 20 per cent on FDI, the high entry-fee, revenue share percentage and bank guarantee amount;

(c) whether Government propose to increase FDI investment limit to 49 per cent and also to liberalise other conditions; and

(d) whether even after increasing FDI limit, the voting right percentage will be retained at the present level of 20 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATISUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has received applications for starting Direct-to-Home broadcasting services.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to increase FDI investment limit or to liberalise any other condition.

(d) Does not arise.

Legislation for coverage of national and international sports meets

2730. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has decided to request Government to bring in a legislation enabling Doordarshan to get signals of all national and international sports meets, especially in sports;

(b) if so, whether such legislation exists in a number of countries including Australia and the UK;

(c) whether India is being left out in important events like World Cup Football matches etc;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered the request; and

(e) if so, the steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has requested Government's intervention to bind the right holders of events of national and international importance to provide terrestrial television rights in India to DD, as a public service broadcaster.

(b) Some countries have enacted legislations which provide for live telecast of specific events of general public importance. The provisions vary but the underlying objective is to ensure that interest of larger section