

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