

[30 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details of expert consulted and opinion expressed by each of them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):** (a) to (c) The review of implementation of the policy of 1955 regarding foreign investment in print media has been an ongoing process since 1989. Expert bodies have also been expressing their views at various fora. The decision of the Government was taken after addressing all concerns expressed by various bodies including those expressed by the Standing Committee on Information Technology.

### **Consequences of FDI in Print Media**

**\*208. SHRI LALU PRASAD:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed 26 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Print Media;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Parliamentary Committee on Information Technology had recommended against Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the decision of Government will have disastrous consequence on country's security; and

(d) if answers to parts (a) to (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to review their decision?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):** (a) and (b) The Government has decided to allow Foreign Direct Investment upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs. It has also been decided to allow Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals and foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific, technical and specially magazines/periodicals/journals. The Standing Committee on Information Technology which examined the subject of 'Entry of Foreign Print Media and Foreign Direct Investment in Print Media' had discussed the pros and cons of allowing foreign investment in print media and entry of foreign

print media. While taking the decision on FDI in Print media, the Government has addressed various concerns including those expressed by the Committee.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government does not propose to review its decision of allowing FDI in print media in the near future, as it is a well-considered decision.

### **Department of Orthopaedics, Safdarjung Hospital**

†\*209. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to convert the Department of Orthopaedics of Safdarjung hospital into an autonomous body;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to make a private ward in the Department of Orthopaedics and provide special facilities to patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to convert the department of Orthopaedics of Safdarjung Hospital into an autonomous body.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no proposal to make private ward in the Department of Orthopaedics at present. However, facilities are provided to the patients within the available resources.

### **World Ayurvedic Congress**

\*210. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has proposed to host the World Ayurvedic congress later this year and if so, the venue and tentative dates decided for the same;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.