

The Government has decided to seek the recommendations of TRAI on the existing foreign investment limits for different segments that may be retained or revised as per the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Segment	Existing limit	Proposed limit
1.	Teleport (Hub)	49%(FDI+FU)	74%(FDI+FU)
2.	DTH	49%(FDI+FII) [within 49%, FDI component not to exceed 20%]	74%(1FDI+FII)
1	Satellite Radio	No policy as on date	74%(FDI+FII)
4.	HITS	No policy as on date	74%(FDI+FII)
5.	Cable Network	49%(FDI+FII)	49%(FDI+FII)
6.	FM Radio	20%(FDI+FII)	24%(FDI+FII)
7.	TV Channels (News & Current Affairs Channels)	26%(FDI+FII)	26%(FDI+FII)

**Ceiling on channels and DTH rates by TRAI**

3183. SHRI MAHENDRAMOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India proposes to put ceiling on channels and DTH rates:

(b) whether TRAI has asked broadcasters not to charge premium of more than 50 per cent

(c) if so, the details of the proposal: and

(d) what is Government doing to give level playing fields to both DTH and Cable TV operators in this regard<sup>0</sup>

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN - DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) after discussions with the pay channel broadcasters have finalized the road map for providing a level playing field for both DTH and Cable TV operators. There has been a general consensus on the composition of bouquets and pricing of *a-la-carte* channels and bouquets. The Broadcasters will offer the same bouquets to the DTH operators as are being offered by them for non-CAS cable distribution. In addition, they are free to offer additional bouquets. The rates of bouquets and *a-la-carte* rates of pay channels so offered to the DTH operators will broadly be in consonance with the TDSAT's judgement dated 31 March, 2006 in petition No. 189 of 2006 and judgement dated 14 July, 2006 in petition No. 36(C) of 2006 wherein the rates were to be fifty per cent of the rates at which these bouquets/channels are being offered by them for non-CAS cable distribution i.e. non-addressable platform. The above arrangement is expected to provide a level playing field.

(b) and (c) Part III of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 applies to Union Territories. As per Section 13(1) of Part-III, which pertains to power of Central Government or local authority to suspend exhibition of films in certain cases "...the Lieutenant-Governor or, as the case may be, the Chief Commissioner, in respect of the whole or any part of a Union Territory and the district magistrate in respect of the district within his jurisdiction, may, if he is of opinion that any film which is being publicly exhibited is likely to cause a breach of the peace, by order, suspend the exhibition of the film and during such suspension the film shall be deemed to be a uncertified film in the State, part or district, as the case may be."

Entry 60 of the List-I in Seventh Schedule under Article 246 of the Constitution of India pertaining to Union Government empowers the Union Government to sanction films for exhibition. In so far as States are concerned, entry No. 33 of the State List relates to cinemas subject to the provisions of the entry 60 of List-I. Further, entry No. 1 of List-II (*i.e.* State List) states 'Public order'. Law and order is a state subject.

### **Foreign capital investment in I&B Sector**

†3182. DR.MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to reconsider the cap on foreign capital investment in information and broadcasting sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has formulated any basic proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the names of such sectors from whom Government has decided to seek opinion on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) In so far as the print media is concerned, at present 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in Speciality Sector and 26% FDI is allowed in news and current affairs sector. There is no proposal for increase in the ceiling of 26% FDI in print media, in the news and current affairs sector.

So far as the broadcasting sector is concerned, the policy on FDI is reviewed on a continuous basis by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, with a view to rationalize/ liberalize and simplify procedures. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended a review of the Foreign Direct Investment Policy in a holistic manner to bring about a degree of consistency in the provisions for various segments of the media sector especially within the broadcasting sector and also in view of the likely convergence in future between telecommunication and broadcasting sectors. Ministry of information and Broadcasting has requested TRAI to give its recommendations on Foreign Investment Limits for various segments of Broadcasting Sector. A CCEA Note on Rationalisation of FDI Policy for Broadcasting and Telecom Sectors has also been circulated by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for consultation with the concerned Ministries before placing it before CCEA for approval.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi