

(f) whether the persons punished for corruption would be declared permanently unfit to contest election?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Corruption is a menace that has a wide range of corrosive effect on society. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, and erodes the quality of life. Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, restricts a Government's ability to provide basic services, and feeds inequality and injustice.

(c) and (d) Corruption thrives where transparency is lacking, procedures are complicated, discretion of a high order is permitted and where there is a demand supply gap. Government is tackling these situations by encouraging greater transparency, introducing simplified procedures, reducing scope for discretion. Introduction of the Right to Information Act, notification of the Whistle Blower Resolution and increased use of e-solutions, are some of the concrete steps taken.

(e) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944 provides for attachment, confiscation and forfeiture of property of corrupt public servants.

(f) The Representation of the People Act, 1951 (as amended from time to time) provides for disqualification of persons convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and for offence of bribery.

Change of Indian Standard Time

*387. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards the demands of the scientists and experts to change the Indian Standard Time (IST) and also to adopt two time zones in the country for increasing productivity and to save energy consumption;

(b) if so, the Government's views and response thereto; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, based on communications received earlier from the then Governor of Tripura and few individuals, the Department of Science and Technology, in the year 2002, had constituted a high level Committee to explore the feasibility of having two separate

time zones given the longitudinal difference between the extreme regions of the country. The Committee observed that having separate time zones may not provide any major advantage to the States but may pose difficulties in view of differential timings to be framed for airlines, railways, communication services, etc. It recommended that advancing the work/institutional timing in appropriate States would be more effective solution which can be implemented through administrative actions by the concerned State.

Approval from FIPB

***388.SHRI JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the telecom companies obtain licences by furnishing wrong information and thereafter fail to comply with conditions related to net worth, roll out, substantial equity, lock-in period, etc. and bring in foreign equity without any approval from Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB);

(b) if so, the details of the companies and their shareholding pattern;

(c) whether bringing in foreign equity without FIPB approval would not threaten national security; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to ensure that before fulfilling the criteria given in the licencing conditions, including roll out, these companies are not allowed to bring in foreign equity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The telecom licenses are issued in terms of the extant Guidelines subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria which includes requirement of networth, paid-up equity capital, compliance to substantial equity clause and compliance to FDI guidelines. Presently, no violation of FDI norms by telecom licensee companies has been found.

(c) In terms of Press Note 3/2007 of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) applicable for telecom sector, 74% composite (direct + indirect) FDI is permitted for telecom services subject to licensing and security conditions. FDI upto 49% is permitted under automatic route. FDI of more than 49% and upto 74% is permitted through Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) subject to security vetting of foreign as well as Indian investors.

(d) Subject to license conditions, there is no prior requirement of completion of roll out obligations, before bringing in FDI in the licensee company.

Water level in several cities

***389.MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: