

- (a) whether there are differences of opinion with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare over the implementation of rules on smoking in films;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) what it is a fact that in the recently held meeting with the filmmakers, producers and others from Bollywood, they have raised some objections in implementing the rules on smoking in films; and
- (d) if so, the details of objections raised and what action the Ministry has taken on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRASHAKAN) : (a) to (d) Several filmmakers and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) brought to the notice of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting some practical difficulties being faced by them in implementing the Tobacco Notification No. G.S.R. 786(E), dated 27.10.2011. In the light of this Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is in discussion with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to revise the Notification.

Increase in FDI cap

4092. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has increased the Foreign Direct Investment Cap for cable television from 49 per cent to 74 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the move comes as a relief to the cash strapped cable distribution companies that have already committed and exhausted their funds for distribution; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory of India (TRAI), the Ministry is proposing to enhance the FDI limit for Multi System Operators (MSOs) who are taking up digitalization with addressability from the existing 49% to 74%. For other MSOs and Local Cable Operators, the existing FDI limit of 49% would continue to exist.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is implementing digitalization with addressability in the cable TV sector in a phased time bound manner with sunset date for complete switch over of analogue services to digital addressable system by December, 2014. This is a capital intensive programme and requires heavy investment not only to upgrade the cable headend but also the cable network and supply of digital Set-top-Boxes (STBs). The TRAI, in its recommendations on "Foreign Investment Limits for Broadcasting Sector" dated 30.6.2010, has stated that the foreign investments can be a source to supplement the capital requirements of the cable industry.

Migration to FM phase-III

4093. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy guidelines, for expansion of FM radio broadcasting services through private agencies, provides an option to existing operators to migrate to FM Phase-III;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of requests received, so far;

(c) whether Government has extended the deadline for signing of Grant of Permission Agreement for migration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Cabinet, in its meeting held on 7.7.2011, has approved the 'Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III)'. As per Para 31.1 of Policy Guidelines notified on 25.07.2011, provisions of these Guidelines are applicable to the existing permission holders subject to the provisions contained therein and subject to payment of all outstanding dues pertaining to the Government, Prasar Bharati and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) in relation to existing FM radio permissions/operations.

Subsequent to the issuance of these guidelines on 25.7.2011, Government has received requests from 25 existing FM radio operators for migration to Phase-III. Details of these companies are given in Statement (*See below*).