

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2585

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003

SYNDICATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS

BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH; IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether the Government have decided to allow registered Indian newspapers to enter into syndication arrangements with foreign newspapers using the automatic route upon fulfilment of certain conditions;
- (b) if so, the details of the fresh guidelines issued in this regard and to what extent this has helped foreign newspapers to be registered in India;
- (c) the extent to which these guidelines will have a cap on the reproduction of the material of foreign publications in the Indian newspapers/magazines;
- (d) the number of such applications that have been received so far;
- (e) the steps taken to ensure that country's security and cultural heritage are not invaded by foreigners through foreign direct investments in electronic media and print media; and
- (f) the norms prescribed for this purpose and at what level they are scrutinized?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): Indian newspapers have been entering into syndication arrangements and remitting foreign exchange in payment under these arrangements for which permission of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting was given on a case to case basis. Guidelines for Syndication Arrangements by Newspapers have been issued by this Ministry on 11th June 2003, which seek to liberalise and streamline the present regime. A copy of the Guidelines is at Annexure.

(d) So far, no application has been received from newspapers in the Ministry after issue of the above guidelines.

(e) & (f): Comprehensive guidelines relating to print media, films and broadcasting have been issued that provide safeguards for ensuring that the security and cultural heritage of the country are not invaded by foreigners. These guidelines are available on the website of the Ministry at [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in).

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2585 FOR F  
ON 7TH AUGUST 2003

**GUIDELINES FOR SYNDICATION ARRANGEMENTS BY NEWSPAPERS**

All registered newspapers (Indian publications) are authorised to make syndication arrangements for procuring material including photographs, cartoons, crossword puzzles, articles and features from foreign publications (content provider) under automatic approval route subject to the following conditions: -

- i. The total material so procured and actually printed in an issue of the Indian publication does not exceed 7.5% of the total printed area of that issue,
- ii. The syndicated material does not include full copy of the editorial page or the front page of the foreign publication,
- iii. The mast head of the content provider publication is not utilised in the Indian publication,
- iv. Credit to the content provider is necessarily given prominently as a byline in the Indian publication,
- v. The material procured under syndication arrangement is such that has already been published in the content provider publication.

2. Any case involving relaxation of any of the above conditions would require to be examined by the Ministry of I&B, and, before any material is actually procured under syndication arrangement beyond the above noted conditions, the Indian publication should have

applied for and obtained prior approval of the Ministry of I&B.

3. These guidelines would not apply to the cases where Ministry of I&B has issued its approval/no objection certificate for publication of Indian edition of a foreign magazine/journal/newspaper.