

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1776
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007
FDI IN FM
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the foreign investment in private FM radio from 20% to 49% now and also allow news and current affairs programmes;
- (b) if so, whether this would give a big push to FM radio companies which are planning to tap the capital markets; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the funds involved therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R.DASMUNSI)

- (a) No, Sir. As per present private FM policy, total foreign investment, including FDI by OCBs/NRIs/PIOs etc, portfolio investments by FIs (within limits prescribed by RBI) and borrowings, if these carry conversion options, shall not exceed 20% of the paid up equity in the applicant company and no news and current affairs is allowed in private FM Radio channels.
- (b) & (c) Do not arise.