

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government does not use its own office or other Government offices for the screening of movies;

(c) whether even in rest of the country such screening is done by taking cinema halls on rent;

(d) whether Government does not feel that it can arrange for its own office and screening in a city like Mumbai where it has got its own land which will result in more savings by Government and more funds at its disposal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) Regional Offices of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) except Regional Office, Kolkata, use private cinema halls for screening of celluloid films. However, video films are screened in CBFC Offices.

(b) and (c) Due to non-availability of screening facilities for celluloid films in the Regional Offices of CBFC, private cinema halls are used. Regional Office, CBFC, Kolkata has its own screening facility.

(d) and (e) Due to non-availability of office space in Government building in Mumbai and high rentals in private buildings, it has not been possible for CBFC to have its own office and screening facility. CBFC does not own any land in Mumbai.

Incentives for FM Radio Operators

2695. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides incentives for FM radio operations across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is satisfied with the result achieved, so far?

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)'. For promotion of private FM radio, policy proposes to enhance FDI + FII from 20% to 26%, news bulletins of All India Radio (AIR) in an unaltered form has been permitted, networking of channels within a broadcaster's channel has been allowed and multiples channels in a city has also been permitted. Policy also proposes special incentives for North East Region and Jammu and Kashmir and Island territories.

Salient features of the approved policy for Phase-III as against Phase-II are

given in Statement (See below).

(c) As per the Policy Guidelines for expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III) approved by the Cabinet e-auction would be held in batches over a period of 3 years with the approval of Hon'ble Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Statement

Salient features of the approved policy for Phase-III as against Phase-II are:-

- (i) Radio operators have been permitted carriage of news bulletins of All India Radio only in an unaltered form.
- (ii) Broadcast pertaining to the certain categories like information pertaining to sporting events, traffic and weather, coverage of cultural events, festivals, coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counseling, availability of employment opportunities, public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration will be treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and will therefore be permissible.
- (iii) Private operators have been allowed to own more than one channel but not more than 40% of the total channels in a city subject to a minimum of three different operators in the city.
- (iv) License fee will be determined as 4% of Gross Revenue (GR) or 2.5% of bid price whichever is higher.
- (v) FDI+FII limit in a private FM radio broadcasting company has been increased from 20% to 26%.
- (vi) Networking of channels will be permissible within a private FM broadcaster's own network across the country instead of in 'C' and 'D' category cities only of a region allowed at present.
- (vii) A choice is proposed to be given to the private FM broadcasters to choose any agency other than BECIL for construction of Common Transmission Infrastructure (CTI) within a period of 3 months of issuance of Letter of Intent (LOI) failing which BECIL will automatically become the system integrator and set up co-location facilities and CTI.
- (viii) A license period of 15 years has been specified for licenses proposed to be granted under FM Phase-III policy.
- (ix) Special Incentives for North East (NE) Region and Jammu and Kashmir and Island territories:
 - Private FM Radio broadcasters in North East (NE) Region and Jammu and Kashmir and Island territories will be required to pay half the rate of annual license fee for an initial period of three years

from the date from which the annual license fee becomes payable and the permission period of fifteen (15) years begins.

- The revised fee structure has also been made applicable for a period of three years, from the date of issuance of Guidelines, to the existing operators in these States to enable them to effectively compete with the new operators.
- Apart from the fee relaxation, it is further proposed that Prasar Bharati infrastructure would be made available at half the lease rentals for similar category cities in such areas.
- The limit on the ownership of Channels, at the national level, allocated to an entity has been retained at 15%. However channels allotted in Jammu and Kashmir, North Eastern States and island territories will be allowed over and above the 15% national limit to incentivise the bidding for channels in such areas.

Modern technology in information and broadcasting sector

†2696. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of information and broadcasting industry is being envisaged by using modern technology in this sector of the country rapidly;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the assessment of growth rate in this new context during the last five years;

(c) whether the common man has also got benefited by this development; and

(d) if so, the details of those benefits and the share of economic gain in these benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As emerging new technologies and convergence are revolutionizing the Indian Information and Broadcasting sector, one of the key thrust areas of the Ministry has been to promote the growth of digital content delivery platform. The major initiatives taken by the Ministry in the field and the growth rate are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.