



सत्यमेव जयते

सुधीर गुप्ता

**SUDHIR GUPTA**

सचिव/Secretary

D.O. No. : 7-1/2013-B&CS

**भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण**

महानगर दूरसंचार भवन, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग,

(पुराना मिनटो रोड) नई दिल्ली-110002

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

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Dated: 05 September, 2014

Dear *Sh. Julka,*

Please refer to MIB's D.O. letter No. N-38011/01/2013-FM dated 25 August 2014, in respect of the Authority's recommendations on "Migration of FM Radio Broadcasters from Phase-II to Phase-III". In your D.O. it is stated that while the Ministry is in agreement with the rest of the recommendations contained therein, the recommendations regarding reduction of minimum channel spacing within a licensed service area to 400 KHz and reconsideration of methodology for determining the reserve price for fresh cities in Phase-III auction are "not agreeable" due to reasons mentioned in the letter. The Ministry has requested the Authority to furnish further recommendations on these two issues in accordance with provisions of section 11(1) of the TRAI Act, 1997.

2. From the above referred letter, it appears that while agreeing with the remaining recommendations, the Government has referred back these two issues to the Authority for its reconsideration as per the 5<sup>th</sup> proviso to section 11(1) of the TRAI Act, 1997.

3. The objective of expansion of the FM radio broadcast services, by adding new cities to cover uncovered geographical areas as well as through additional channels in existing cities, is to make available a variety of content, information and educational services to general public. The primary purpose of the additional FM radio channels auction is to give a boost to the FM radio movement so that it can contribute to development of society, fulfill the needs of entertainment and information of the general public, and encourage socio-economic activities. The revenue generated from the FM radio spectrum auction process is incidental to this larger objective.

4. Before considering these issues, it is worthwhile to summarize the relevant facts pertaining to the first issue i.e. reduction of minimum channel spacing within a licensed service area to 400 KHz as below:

- i. On a reference dated 13 November 2007 from MIB, the Authority gave its recommendations on '3<sup>rd</sup> Phase of FM Radio Broadcasting' on 22 February 2008. Along with the reference, the Ministry forwarded the proposal dated 09 August 2007 from BECIL for augmentation of FM broadcasting frequency spots under Phase-III. The proposal contains a comprehensive technical analysis and details of the cities as well as the number of FM radio channels which can be offered to private broadcasters in each city.
- ii. Further, on a reference dated 08 August 2011 from MIB, the Authority gave its recommendations on 'Prescribing minimum channel spacing, within a license service area, in FM radio sector in India' on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012, wherein the Authority, inter-alia, recommended that the frequencies for FM radio channels, within a licensed service

