

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Dated : 27th October 2025

Corrigendum to the Recommendations on “Formulating a Digital Radio Broadcast Policy for private broadcasters” dated 3rd October 2025

1. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) vide its reference dated 23rd April 2024 has sought recommendations of TRAI under section 11(1)(a)(i) of the TRAI Act, 1997 on formulating a digital radio broadcast policy for private Radio broadcasters.

2. The Authority sent its Recommendations on “Formulating a Digital Radio Broadcast Policy for private broadcasters” to MIB on 3rd October 2025.

3. In the said recommendations, it was recommended in Para 3.74(g) that

“In case no bids are received for new frequencies in a city, then ADP for that city for the purpose of migration of existing broadcasters should be taken as an average of the ADPs for similar category of cities. While extending the average ADP to other cities in the category where no bid is received, this option should be exercised only when at least two cities in that category have received successful bids”.

The above recommendation was discussed in para 3.72, wherein it was mentioned that

“... for migrating to simulcast mode in digital broadcasting, the existing broadcasters may be asked to pay an amount equal to the ADP (for new frequencies) for the same city minus proportionate NOTEF already paid for the remaining period of the existing permission for that city. In case no bids are received for new frequencies in a particular city, then ADP can be taken by averaging the ADPs available for similar category of cities. For example, in case no bids are received for new frequencies in a category A+ city, then the average of ADPs of remaining 3 category A+ cities will be considered as ADP for that city. While extending the average

ADP to other cities in the A+ and A categories where no bid is received, it would be prudent to exercise this option only when at least two cities in that category have received successful bids.”

4. The matter has since been reviewed by the Authority and it has been noted that the aforesaid process could lead to certain aberrations in the migration amount vis-à-vis reserve price of the city where no bids are received. In this regard, the Authority has noted that the reserve price for a city, which has been arrived at, following a due valuation model, is the minimum amount which can be offered by a bidder during auction. Upon reconsideration, the Authority is of the view that the reserve price would be the appropriate base for calculating the migration amount, in case of cities where no bids are received. Hence, the above said recommendation 3.74(g) is revised as under:

“In case no bids are received for new frequencies in a city, then Reserve Price (RP) for that city should be considered as basis for migration amount for the purpose of migration of existing broadcasters.”