SUB: Recommendation on “3rd Phase of Private FM Radio Broadcasting”.

Dear Madam,

This is with reference to the letter No.104/2/2007-FM/622 dated 13.11.2007 seeking recommendations of TRAI under section 11(1)(a) of TRAI Act, 1997 on issue of modifications to be incorporated in policy for FM Radio Broadcast Phase-III.

2. TRAI had issued a consultation paper on the subject on 8th January, 2008. On the basis of the comments of stakeholders, internal analysis and available best international practices on these issues, TRAI has finalised the recommendations. Various vital issues such as operational unit, additional FM channels in a district, Multiple-ownership of channels in a district, FDI limits, Networking of programs, News & Currents Affairs program on FM radio etc. have been addressed in the recommendations.

3. It is hoped that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting will take an early decision on these recommendations to facilitate modifications in the existing policy guidelines which will enable expansion of FM broadcasting in smaller and uncovered areas of the country. The Authority has also recommended that uncommitted channels of Phase-II may also be operationalised on the basis of Phase-III recommendations.

4. Copies of the recommendations and press release are enclosed herewith. These recommendations have also been placed on TRAI’s web site www.trai.gov.in.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Asha Swarup,
Secretary,
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi.