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FEDERATION OF CONSUMER AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Promoted exclusively to deal with the pressing issues..

(Regd. No.CAG/01/2016 as a Consumer advocacy group with TRAI)

No.5, 4th Street, Lakshmipuram,
Tiruchirappalli – 620 010. T.N. State .

The Chairman,
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,
New Delhi – 110 011.

05th, May, 2017

Kind attention to Prof. M. Kasim, Advisor (B&CS)-III

Dear Sir,

Sub: our view on Pre – Consultation paper on Ease of Doing Business in
Broadcasting sector – reg:

We appreciate the TRAI for seeking views on the above subject. In this regard, we submit the following as our view:

1. The Licensing in broadcasting comes under single window instead of present practice of approaching four to five different departments for easy access to the deserving new comers.
2. The broadcast and telecast industry is involving with social responsibility and their views are reaching to millions of people immediately; so apart from monetary aspects, the ministry should give priority in granting licences at concessional rates on priority basis to the journalists and printing medias, based on their good track records.
3. The Ministry's decision is discouraging to the deserving small players in entering within the Broadcasting and telecasting industry. It increased net worth criteria for all categories and this will indirectly help the Corporate and big Public Sector Companies alone, to enter this industry; for example the net worth was increased from Rs.1.50 crore to Rs.5.00 crore for 1st channel.

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4. Most of the present operators are corporate and their main aim is in earning money; they are running gamesmanships by exploiting the gullible viewers; even after the penalty was imposed by the National Consumer Dispute Redressal commission; this is continuing. Apart from this they are running dual government and they are capable of influencing the government officials and individuals by through their networks.
5. So, this powerful weapon may be given to the socially responsible, service oriented organisations and persons and not to the business houses for merely earning money.
6. Now the situation is so critical; in our Tamil Nadu state, that most of the telecasting channels are either run by political parties or big industrialists who are dealing in controversial trades and are religion based. They are using their channels as their shields and fulfil their ulterior aims, apart from the money earned. .
7. So, we suggest; that the condition may be relaxed and simplified to the NGOs, service minded and socially responsible organisations, journalists, based on their good track records and those who are having real concern on public issues and our Nation; but lack funds needed to start a channel.
8. So, in the larger interest of our Nation; priority has to be given to the service oriented organisations, in entering the broadcasting and telecast industry in the better interests of our Nation and its viewers.

Thanks and regards.

M. Sekaran.

President.

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