
FAQ Allotment of broadcast time to political parties

Q. When was the scheme for allotment of Broadcast time to political parties introduced?

A. At the time of General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 1998, a new initiative for State funding of recognized political parties through free use of the State owned Television and Radio was introduced. With the amendment to the R. P. Act, 1951 in 2003, equitable time sharing for campaigning by recognized political parties on electronic media now has statutory basis.

Q. Is this scheme applicable to all political parties?

A. The facility of allotment of broadcast time is available only to 'National Parties' and 'Recognized State Parties' of the state concerned.

Q. Is this scheme available on all the media?

A. No. The scheme is available only on Govt. owned media i.e. Doordarshan & All India Radio.

Q. On what basis time is allotted to political parties?

A. A base time of 45 minutes is allotted to each National and Recognized State Parties of the state concerned uniformly. Additional time to be allotted to parties is decided on the basis of the poll performance of the parties in the last assembly election from the respective States/UT or in the last general elections to Lok Sabha, as the case may be.

Q. What is not permitted in this party broadcast?

A. The telecasts/broadcasts on Doordarshan/AIR will not permit:

- (a) criticism of other countries;
- (b) attack on religions or communities;
- (c) anything obscene or defamatory;
- (d) incitement of violence;
- (e) anything amounting to contempt of court;
- (f) aspersion against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;
- (g) anything affecting the unity, sovereignty and integrity of the Nation;
- (h) any criticism by name of any person.

Q. What is the period in which the scheme is applicable?

A. The period of broadcast will be between the last date of filing of nominations and two days before the date of poll (in each phase).

Q. What does Time Vouchers mean?

A. Each party is provided printed Time Vouchers in the denomination of 5 minutes with one voucher of 1 to 4 minutes equal to the total time allotted to it for broadcast.

Q. How can these Time Vouchers be used by the political parties?

A. Political parties are free to combine the Time Vouchers provided to them suitably. These vouchers are required to be produced to DD & AIR for their party broadcast. Parties have the discretion to use Time Vouchers through their representatives provided that no individual representative shall be allowed to use more than 20 minutes of the total time allotted to that party either on Doordarshan or on AIR.

Q. Whether parties are required to submit transcripts of broadcasts in advance?

A. Yes. The parties or their representatives shall submit in advance, within the time frame as indicated by the Prasar Bharati Corporation.

Q. What is the provision, if there is any deviation in opinion on transcript by Doordarshan and All India Radio, submitted by the political party?

A. To rule out any confusion and deviation in approval of transcript submitted by the political parties to DD & AIR, Prasar Bharti may constitute an Apex Review Committee in all the States/UTs during elections which may have members/experts of both AIR and DD. In case of any difference of opinion/ approval between AIR/DD and political parties related to transcript of broadcast/telecast, matter may be referred to this Apex Review Committee for final decision.