

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4065

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001

F. M. CHANNEL FOR EDUCATION

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

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(a) whether the Government are considering to provide a separate FM channel for education and also establishing a National Testing Service; (

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total outlay of the project; (

(c) the time by which it would start functioning; and

(d) to what extent this would be helpful to the people?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) On the basis of an agreement signed between Ministry of I&B and IGNOU, the Government has given permission to IGNOU for operating FM Educational channel in 40 centres. At present, there is no plan for starting a National Testing Service.

(b) The details of total outlay for the project are being obtained.

(c): As per the agreement, It should be commissioned within 3 years from the date of frequency allocation.

(d): The Gyan Vani FM channel will be covering 4 metro cities and 36 centres and will cover a wide network of distant learners and hitherto unreached population of the country.