

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3026

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002

LICENCEES TO PRIVATE FM COMPANIES FOR FM STATIONS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;N.N. KRISHNADAS;SURESH KODIKUNNIL

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

- (a) whether the Government have issued licences to the private companies for operating FM station;
- (b) if so, the names thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the number of licences issued so far;
- (d) whether the licence holders have started the operation of the FM stations;
- (e) if not, the reason therefor;
- (f) whether they have asked for extension of time;
- (g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (i) whether some licence holder has surrendered their FM licences of non- metro cities due to high fees; and
- (j) if so, the amount of money forfeited given as bank guarantee?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Licence Agreements have been signed with 16 private companies in respect of 37 stations in 19 cities. The details are as at Annexure.

(d): Licence holders of FM stations at Bangalore, Indore, Lucknow and Ahmedabad have started operations.

(e), (f) & (g): The licencees have asked for extension of time quoting problems in setting up colocated facilities, obtaining requisite clearances etc. In Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata, the licencees have been given extension of time to setup colocated facilities on Prasar Bharati's towers by 29th August,2002. In Mumbai, the licenceeshave been given time to setup colocated facilities by 29th December,2003. During this period, they have been permitted to operationalise individuals stations to be set up by 29th April,2002. In the case of 7 non-metros, the licencees have paid the balance of the licence fee for the first year and have been granted a deemed operationalised station status.

(i): Yes, Sir.

(j): Bank guarantees of Rs. 1,90,00,000/-(Rs. One crore ninety lakhs only) have been encashed. Encashment of Bank guarantees of Rs. 25, 42,50,000/- (Rs. Twenty five crore, forty two lakhs and fifty thousands only) has been stayed by Mumbai High Court.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PARTS (a), (b) & (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3026 FOR ANSWER ON 21.03.2002

S.No.	Name of state	No. of FM stations	Name of the companies
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1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	Entertainment Network (India) Ltd. Vertex B`casting Co. Ltd Udaya TV Ltd.
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2.	Bihar	1	Music B`cast Pvt. Ltd.
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3. Gujarat 1 Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.
4. Karnatka 1 Music B`cast Pvt. Ltd.
5. Maharashtra 7 Entertainment Network (India) Ltd
Radio today (Mumbai),
Millenium(Mumbai) B`cast Pvt. Ltd
Radio-Mid day west(India) Ltd.
Music B`cast Pvt. Ltd.
6. Madhya Pradesh 4 Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.
Vertex B`casting Co. Ltd
7. NCT Delhi 5 Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.
Radio today (Delhi)
Music B`cast Pvt. Ltd
Millenium(Delhi) B`cast Pvt. Ltd
Mid day Radio North (India) Ltd
8. Orissa 2 Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.
9. Tamil Nadu 6 Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.
Mid day B`casting South (India) Ltd.
Millenium(Chennai) B`cast Pvt. Ltd
Sun TV Pvt. Ltd.
10. Uttar Pradesh 2 Music B`cast Pvt. Ltd
Entertainment Network (India) Ltd
11. West Bengal 5 Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.
Vertex B`casting Co. Ltd.
Radio today (Calcutta)
India FM Radio Pvt. Ltd.
Hitz FM Radio Pvt. Ltd.