

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1490
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
LICENCE FOR FM RADIO STATIONS
RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA

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

- (a) whether the number of FM Radio stations have increased recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the spread of radio is low in India;
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to decrease high licencing fees for FM stations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) During the current financial year, AIR has not commissioned any FM Radio Station. However, 9 Private FM Radio Stations have come up during the same period, as per the following details:-

- (i) Delhi - 3 channels
- (ii) Kolkata (WB) - 4 channels
- (iii) Chennai (TN) - 2 channels

(c) No Sir. 99.13% of population in the country is covered by Radio, which is expected to increase to 99.50% by the end of the 10th Five Year Plan.

(d) No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.