

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4271
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
PRIVATISATION OF FM RADIO
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

e:

- (a) whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is awaiting final recommendations of Tele-com Regulatory Authority of India on phase two of the privatization of FM radio;
- (b) if so, whether Ministry of Home Affairs has expressed reservations over allowing news and current affairs programmes on private channels;
- (c) if so, whether Ministry of Home Affairs has suggested that news and current affairs programmes be kept in public broadcasters, All India Radio only;
- (d) if so, to what extent the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has considered the suggestions made by Ministry of Home Affairs; and
- (e) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (e): The recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on Phase II of private FM Radio Broadcasting have recently been received and are being examined. The views of various Ministries including Ministry of Home Affairs shall be considered before arriving at a final decision. No time frame can be indicate at this stage for the final decision in the matter.