

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:670

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006

COVERAGE OF FM IN MAHARASHTRA

Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

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

- (a)The details of the number of FM stations in Maharashtra alongwith the percentage area of the State covered by FM broadcasting;
- (b)Whether there is any proposal to extend FM coverage to other areas;
- (c)If so, whether any proposal has been received in this regard;
- (d)If so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e)The time by which it is likely to be finalized?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) At present, there are 16 Government AIR FM radio stations and 5 private FM radio stations running in the State of Maharashtra. AIR FM signals cover 24.3% of area and 44.15% of the population in Maharashtra.

(b) to (e)Yes, Sir. 3 more AIR FM radio stations i.e., at Shiridi, Oras and Amravti have been approved in the 10th Plan. Besides, Letters of Intent (LOI) have been issued under Phase II of private FM radio broadcasting to run 31 channels in Maharashtra. The operationalization of these channels are expected by the end of next financial year, at the latest.