

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1322
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
FM RADIO STATIONS AWARD TO PRIVATE PARTIES
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) the details of FM Radio Stations opened and awarded to private parties, State-wise;
- (b) the details of rural and urban areas likely to be covered by their range;
- (c) Whether there is any plan to cover cent percent rural areas of the country particularly in North East through FM Radios; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) The details of FM Radio Stations awarded to private parties and operationalised so far, State-wise, have been indicated at Annexure. I.

(b) Policy on expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting services through private agencies provides only for specific channels, city-wise. All private FM radio stations allocated till now will be located in urban areas (87 cities). This includes A+, A, B, C and D categories of cities. However, the coverage area of the transmitters may spillover to nearby rural areas also.

(c)&(d) Apart from city-wise allocation of channels, including in North East, there is no other specific plan to cover cent percent rural areas of the country through private FM broadcasters, at present. However, All India Radio (AIR), for the purpose of strengthening FM radio coverage has got approval for 121 FM transmitters (power ranging from 100 Watt to 10 kW) in the North East. Besides above, transmitters for Kohima, Itanagar, Aizawl and Churachandpur are also ready.