

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:45

ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010

PROMOTING COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to promote/expand the Community Radio Stations (CRS) in the country including in far flung areas and coastal regions for disseminating information of relief operations in disaster hit areas.
- (b) If so, the details thereof State-wise, location-wise and extent to which the effected people of disaster areas likely to benefit from the said proposal.
- (c) The details of monitoring mechanism to check and regulate the content broadcasts by the CRS.
- (d) Whether the Government also proposes to allow broadcasting local news on CRS and generate income through advertisements; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof alongwith the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for the benefit of the people through CRS?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR.S.JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

- (a) Policy Guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations (CRS) in India allows setting up of CRS inter-alia by educational institutions & community based organizations, subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria, in any part of the country including costal and disaster hit areas. These Community Radio Stations, set up as per the policy, can also be effectively used for disseminating information of relief operations in disaster hit areas.
- (b) CRS can provide a vital link among the people and the State for relief operations during disaster.It can also educate public about disaster prevention and preparedness. So far 89 Community Radio Stations are operational in the country. List is Annexed.
- (c) According to the Para 5(iv & v) of policy guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations, the permission Holder shall have to adhere to the provisions of the Programme and Advertising Code as prescribed for All India Radio and shall preserve all programmes broadcast by the CRS for three months from the date of broadcast for monitoring purpose.
- (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government to allow local news on CRS. According to para 5 (vi) of policy guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations the permission holder of Community Radio shall not broadcast any programmes, which relate to news and current affairs and are otherwise political in nature. Limited advertising and announcements relating to local events, local businesses and services and employment opportunities are allowed on Community Radio to meet the operational expenses & capital expenditure of CRS. The maximum duration of such limited advertising is restricted to Five minutes per hour of broadcast.
- (e) The Government is giving vide publicity to the Community Radio Scheme. Awareness workshops are being organized to sensitize the public about the policy and create awareness amongst aspiring applicants about the issues relating to setting up, operation & maintenance of Community Radio so that it can become an effective tool for the empowerment of civil society