

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2195
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010
SATELLITE/FM RADIO FACILITY
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any target to provide satellite and FM Radio facility in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred for the purpose; and
- (d) the name of the States identified for providing such facilities along with the number of people likely to be benefited therefrom?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, sir. 138 FM Transmitters of various capacities are being installed by AIR throughout the country to provide FM coverage in the uncovered areas in the country under the head New Scheme in the 11th Plan. The installation of these FM Transmitters is expected to be completed by 31st March' 2012. State wise details are given in the Annexure.

As far as Satellite Channel is concerned, there are 21 radio channels (Programmes) of AIR presently available through Doordarshan DTH Services in Ku Band. There is no approved scheme for expansion of Satellite Radio Channels of AIR during 11th Plan.

As many as 806 private FM radio channels spread over 283 cities in the country are proposed to be set up under Phase-III of the scheme for expansion of FM radio service through private agencies. The policy guidelines for the purpose can be finalized after the modalities to be adopted for auction of private FM radio channels are recommended by the duly constituted Group of Ministers.

(c) Rs. 140.34 Cr. have been allocated for installation of AIR FM transmitters during 11th Plan. Government does not incur any expenditure on setting up of Private FM Radio Stations, except for setting up of co-location facilities, if considered necessary.

(d) The state-wise details for installation of FM transmitters of AIR is given in Annexure. About 13 crore people living in these regions are likely to be benefited from these schemes.

The proposal for expansion of FM radio service through private agencies under Phase-III includes all the States of India except Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and all the Union Territories except Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Under Phase-III, only those cities have been identified which have a population of more than one Lakh.