

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2521
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011
PROGRAMMES ON FM RADIO
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of companies/institutions that have been issued licence to operate FM channels in the country, so far;
- (b) the details of revenue earned from such private FM Radio stations/channels during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the details/types of programmes allowed to be broadcast through FM Radio stations in the country;
- (d) whether there is any mechanism to check the programmes being relayed/broadcast through the private FM Radio stations on daily basis; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

(a) Government has granted permission to 41 companies to operate 266 channels under Phase I and Phase II of the policy guidelines for expansion of FM radio broadcasting through private agencies. However, Permissions of 4 companies for their 20 channels were revoked in view of the violations of the terms and conditions of the Grant of Permission Agreement. At present, 245 channels are operational by 37 companies. The only remaining channel at Aizawl is not yet operational for want of locating common transmission infrastructure.

Government has signed agreements with 100 Institutions for operationalisation of Community Radio Stations(CRS). Out of these, 79 Community Radio Stations have been operationalised.

Government has also signed agreements with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for operationalisation of FM stations, which are called Gyan Vani FM radio stations, for educational broadcast at 40 places. Out of these, 37 stations are presently operational. In remaining 3 places, IGNOU has decided not to set up FM stations .

(b) Government has earned revenue of Rs.178.53 crores(approx.) from the private FM radio operators in the last 3 years including current year. State-wise details of revenue are at Annexure. So far as Community radio stations are concerned, there is no revenue sharing with these stations.

(c) Private FM radio operators are free to decide their programming except for carriage of news and current affairs, subject to compliance to the AIR Code, as per the extant FM radio Phase-II Policy.

Community Radio stations are allowed to carry programmes of immediate relevance to the community. The emphasis should be on developmental, agricultural, health, educational, environmental, social welfare, community development and cultural programmes. CRS have not been allowed to broadcast any programmes, which relate to news and current affairs and are otherwise political in nature.

IGNOU Gyan Vani FM Radio Stations are permitted to broadcast educational programmes only.

(d) & (e) As per clauses 13.1/13.2 of Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA), automatic loggers, in addition to preservation of recordings of broadcast material by individual broadcasters at their studio centers, have been installed by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), at each Common Transmission Infrastructure location. Off air programme broadcast by each private FM channel are stored in these loggers for 3 months. This stored programme is checked on monthly basis for any violation by BECIL. Further a provision exists in an approved scheme of 11th Plan to bring this stored programme to central location of Electronic Media Monitoring Centre(EMMC), Delhi. Action for implementation of this provision have already been initiated.