

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4317
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
FUNCTIONING OF PRIVATE FM RADIO CHANNELS
Adhi Sankar Shri ;Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

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

- (a) the names of private companies which have been allowed to set up/operate FM radio channels in the country so far, state-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has received any complaint against such companies with regard to their broadcasting services;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such companies;
- (d) whether the FM radio channels have been entrusted with any social responsibilities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Government has granted permissions to 41 companies to set up/operate 266 private FM radio channels across in the country under Phase I and II of the policy guidelines for expansion of FM radio broadcasting through private agencies. However, out of total permission holder companies, permissions granted to 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 (Mizoram) is not yet operational for want of locating common transmission infrastructure. State- wise details of permission holders whose channels are operational/non - operational are at Annexure I. State- wise details of stations whose permission have been revoked are at Annexure II.

(b) & (c): Nine Complaints have been received against private FM radio operators with regard to their broadcasting services. Such cases of violation of the license conditions are dealt with as per the provisions of the Grant of Permission Agreement. A statement indicating details of complaints and action taken thereon by the Government is at Annexure-III .

(d) & (e) As per the Phase-II Policy Guidelines every permission holder shall follow the AIR Program and Advertising Code as amended from time to time. The code does not permit attack on religion or communities, anything obscene, incitement to violence or anything against maintenance of Law and Order etc.