

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3165

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

PROGRAMMES ON FM CHANNELS

Rana (Raju Rana) Shri Rajendrasinh Ghanshyamsinh;Rani Killi Krupa;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai;Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to scrutinise the contents of the programmes broadcast through FM channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to set up any monitoring agency to have overall control over these FM channels;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the guidelines issued by the Government to improve the quality of programmes broadcast through FM channels?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): The Government do not have any proposal to scrutinize the contents of the programmes broadcast through private FM channels. However contents of these channels are monitored locally by Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL). FM Channels are required to preserve the content broadcast by them for a period of 90 days. In addition, automatic loggers have been installed by 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.

(c) & (d): Presently, the Government do not have any proposal to set up any other monitoring agency to have over all control over private FM channels.

(e): Private FM radio operators are free to decide their programming. However, as per private FM radio Phase-III Policy issued on 25.07.2011, the FM operators are permitted carriage of news bulletins of All India Radio (AIR) only in an unaltered form. In addition, broadcast pertaining to the certain categories like information pertaining to sporting events, traffic and weather, coverage of cultural events, festivals, coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counseling, availability of employment opportunities, public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration will be treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and will therefore be permissible for broadcast.

As regards AIR, all FM stations/channels broadcast their programmes in conformity with the provision of AIR Code and AIR Commercial Code.