

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:72  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012  
COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS  
Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) the status of operation of Community Radio Station (CRS) in the country;
- (b) the number of players issued Letters of Intent to open CRS in the country during each of last three years and the current year
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to permit more players to enter the field for opening of CRS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to reduce the existing licence fees for grant of licence to operate CRS; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.72 FOR 14.08.2012

(a) Strengthening and facilitating expansion of Community Radio Stations (CRS) in India is a thrust area of the Ministry. Ministry has so far permitted 371 CR Stations in India. At present 135 CR Stations are operating in the country.

(b) Letters of Intent issued during the last three years and the current year are as under:

| Year | No. of Letter of Intent Issued |
|------|--------------------------------|
|------|--------------------------------|

|      |    |
|------|----|
| 2009 | 18 |
|------|----|

|      |    |
|------|----|
| 2010 | 78 |
|------|----|

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| 2011 | 100 |
|------|-----|

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| 2012 (till date) | 08 |
|------------------|----|

(c) & (d) Government is giving wide publicity to the Community Radio Scheme to mobilize organisations to apply for grant of permission to set up community radio stations. Awareness workshops are being organized to sensitize people about the policy and create awareness amongst aspiring applicants about issues relating to setting up, operation & maintenance of Community Radios. So far 37 workshops have been organised across the country. Besides this, two National Sammelans of Community Radio Operators

have been organised bringing together Community Radio operators, Government Ministries and Departments, UN organisations and other stakeholders for exchange of ideas and discussions.

(e) & (f) Community Radio Operators have to pay Spectrum charges as decided by the Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, which includes License Fee and Royalty. Ministry of Communication & Information Technology has informed that representations received from various stakeholders relating to revision of existing spectrum charges are under examination.