

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2551
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
LICENCE FOR FM CHANNELS
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the guidelines/norms prescribed by the Government for granting licence to operate FM Radio Station;
- (b) the number of requests/applications received by the Government for getting licence to operate FM channels in the country;
- (c) the status of such applications/requests, State-wise; and
- (d) the number of application/requests still pending and the time by which these are likely to be cleared, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): The Government through an order dated 25.07.2011, has issued the "Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III)" which is intended to cover 294 cities with a total of 839 new FM radio channels. Under the Policy, permission for FM radio channels will be awarded through ascending e-auction, as followed by Department of Telecommunication for the auction of 3G and BWA spectrum, mutatis-mutandis, as recommended by the GoM on Licensing Methodology for FM Phase-III. Briefly, the policy guidelines include the following :-

- (1) An increase in the present foreign investment limit from 20% to 26%.
 - (2) Carriage of News Bulletins produced by All India Radio is allowed in an unaltered form.
 - (3) Specific incentives have been given in the Policy with regard to Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States and Island territories to make the operations viable in these areas. The detailed policy guidelines are available on this Ministry's website (www.mib.nic.in)
- (b): Applications for grant of permission under Phase III Policy are yet to be invited by the Ministry.
- (c) & (d): Does not arise.