

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3953
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2012
EXEMPTION IN SPECTRUM FEE FOR COMMUNITY RADIO
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various forums/ organisations have requested for exemption in spectrum fees for community radio as it is a powerful tool for poor and have enormous benefits as an information and communication tool and are being used to great effect all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether instead of exempting from the spectrum fee, the Government has increased the licence fee from Rs. 19,700 to Rs. 91,000 per annum;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to reconsider the increase in licence fee and give exemption in licence fee to community radio; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

- (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The increase in Spectrum Charges is due to revision of spectrum charges with effect from 1st April 2012 for all captive users, including for community radio stations. In this regard some representations from various organisations including Community radio forums, requesting either for exemption from paying spectrum fee or for roll back have been received.
- (e) & (f) A High Level Committee in Department of Telecom was constituted to look into various issues raised in such representations. The Committee has submitted its report. No decision has been taken in this regard.