

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:833

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS

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

- (a) The total number of Community Radio Stations (CRSs) functioning in the country and the number of persons benefitted therefrom, State-wise;
- (b) Whether the Government has received applications from various educational institutions and organisations to operate new CRSs in various parts of the country;
- (c) If so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;
- (d) the number of applications pending for clearance along with the reasons therefor and the time by which such applications are likely to be cleared; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the services of community radio stations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) At present 141 Community Radio Stations are operating in the country. Broadcast made by a CRS is generally heard in a range of 5-10 kms. radius. People living in the coverage area may access the programmes broadcast by CRS. No listenership study has been done by the Ministry. However, in the 12th Plan it is proposed to conduct listenership survey for CR Stations.

(b) & (c) Govt. has received 1128 applications so far to operate CRS. Details are as given below:

1. NGOs = 690

2. Educational Institutions = 338

3. Agriculture Universities = 12

4. Krishi Vigyan Kendras = 88

Total : 1128

Out of 1128 applications, Letters of Intent have been issued to 386 applicants while 477 applications have been rejected. 265 applications are under process in consultation with other Ministries.

(d) At present 265 applications are pending for clearances at various stages for want of clearance from concerned Ministries and information from applicant organisations. No time frame can be prescribed to clear all these proposals, as inter Ministerial clearances are required from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of Ministry of Communication & IT etc. to grant permission to set up community radio station.

(e) Government has taken several steps to improve the services of Community Radio Stations. In order to provide financial support to Community Radio Stations, the Ministry has proposed a Plan Scheme of Rs.100 Crores in the 12th Five Year Plan namely "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India". This scheme envisages providing assistance to new as well as existing CR Stations for setting up studios, purchase of equipments, building capacity, and upgrading technology etc. Every year about 100 new Community Radio Stations and 30 existing CRS will be supported.

Policy guidelines allow community radio stations (CRS) to have advertising of 5 (Five) minutes per hour of broadcast to generate funds for operational expenses and capital expenditure of the CRS. To enable CRS to generate revenue through this mechanism, Ministry has simplified guidelines for empanelment of CRS with DAVP. At present 24 CRS are empanelled with DAVP. Ministry has

enhanced the DAVP rates for advertisement on CRS from Rs.1 per second to Rs.4 per second. DAVP has so far issued release orders amounting to Rs.52,46,946/- to empanelled Community Radio Stations for airing various advertisement spots.

Advocacy with various Ministries including Ministry of Health, Panchayati Raj, Consumer Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Child Development etc. is also being done, so that they could involve Community Radio Stations for their communication campaigns.