

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1803

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

NEWS ON CRS

Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to grant permission to provide news service through Community Radio Stations (CRS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has laid down any regulations to ensure strict observance of the norms by CRS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

a) & (b) Extant policy guidelines for setting up community radio do not allow broadcast of News & Current affairs and programmes of political nature through CRS. At present, no proposal is under consideration to grant permission to provide news services through community radio stations.

(c) & (d) As per policy guidelines, Community Radio Stations are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programmmes and Advertising Code as prescribed for All India Radio. According to policy guidelines, the permission holder of CRS is required to preserve all programmes broadcast by the CRS for three months from the date of broadcast for monitoring. The permission holder should have to ensure that nothing is included in the programmes broadcast which contains attack on religions or result in promoting communal discontent or disharmony. In case there is any violation of conditions of policy guidelines, Government may suo moto or on basis of complaints take cognizance and place the matter before the Inter-ministerial Committees on Programme and Advertising Codes for recommending appropriate penalties.