

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1176
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to fund community radio as an effective outreach tool;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to organise 'Capacity Building Workshops' for the existing Community Radio Stations for skill development;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of information proposed to be relayed on this system for development of health and other human development projects?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) It has been proposed to bring a new Plan Scheme in the 12th Plan to provide financial support to Community Radio Stations for infrastructure/equipment/ training and capacity building etc. This would help to set up a large number of Community Radio Stations in the country. Community Radio Stations can serve as an excellent tool for involving communities in development communication. Ministries/Government Departments can make use of this platform to convey important development messages.

(c) & (d) The Ministry has been organizing several awareness and capacity building workshops for community radio aspirants and existing community radio stations all over the country. 42 workshops have been organized across the country since 2007. Such workshops would continue in the 12th Five Year Plan.

(e) Central & State Governments can engage community radio stations to broadcast public interest information and sponsored programmes. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has engaged some community radio stations for broadcast of 'Swasth Bharat' programme in Hindi and 'Arogya Bharatam' programme in Southern States. Ministry of Women and Child Development has also allocated funds to utilise community radios for next three years for their nationwide campaign against malnutrition. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has also released advertisements to community radios on consumer awareness.