

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6440

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013

FREQUENCY FOR CRS

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to promote Community Radio Stations(CRS) in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise inter-alia indicating the manner in which the above services would be beneficial to the common people;
- (b) whether the Government has allocated frequency for setting up/operating of CRS in the country including in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during the 11th and the 12th Plan period, State/UTwise; and
- (d) the steps being taken to increase the frequency of CRS in the near future?

Answer

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

(a) Community Radio Stations are owned and managed by the communities themselves and therefore ensure access to basic communication infrastructure for the poorest and marginalized citizens of country. It is one of the best tools for empowering communities, particularly rural and remote communities that seldom find a voice in the mainstream highly commercialized media environment. Community Radio is playing a major role in promoting and preserving local culture, traditions and local dialect.

In order to allow greater participation by the civil society on issues relating to development and social change, Government grants permission to 'Non-profit' organizations i.e Registered Societies/NGOs/Trusts, Educational Institutions and Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. to set up Community Radio Stations (CRS) subject to fulfillment of the conditions laid down in the Policy Guidelines. 428 Letters of Intent (LOI) have been issued to set up CRS across the country. The state-wise list of LOIs issued is available on this Ministry's website: www.mib.nic.in.

Awareness workshops are being organized by this Ministry to sensitize people about the policy and create awareness amongst aspiring applicants about issues relating to setting up, operation & maintenance of Community Radios. So far 46 awareness workshops have been organised across the country. Besides this, three National Sammelans have been organised for Community Radio operators, Government Ministries and Departments, UN organisations and other stakeholders for exchange of ideas and discussions.

(b) to (d) Wireless Planning and Co-ordination Wing of Ministry of Communication & IT has intimated that during the 11th and 12th Plan period, 194 Frequencies were allocated for operating CRS, out of which, 13 frequencies were allocated in Andhra Pradesh. State/UT wise details of frequency allocation are at Annexure.