

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6526

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013

INCENTIVES FOR FM RADIO STATIONS

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

- (a) whether the Government provides any incentives for operation of FM radio stations across the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is satisfied with the achievements, so far;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the revenue earned by the Government through FM radio during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the estimated total expenditure likely to be incurred for setting up of a FM radio station?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Policy Guidelines for expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III) has the following incentives:- enhancement of FDI + FII from 20% to 26%, permission for carriage of news bulletins of All India Radio (AIR) in its unaltered form, networking of channels within a broadcaster's channel and permission for multiple channels in a city. The Policy also provides special incentives for North East Region and Jammu and Kashmir and Island territories.

Salient features of the approved policy for Phase-III as against Phase-II are enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): Details of revenue earned by the Government through All India Radio(AIR) FM Radio Stations and Private FM Radio Stations during the last three years and the current year (upto April,2013) are at Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively.

(f): AIR has informed that the estimated capital cost involved in setting up of FM Radio Station varies from Rs.5 crore to 15 crore (approximately) depending upon factors like location, power of transmitter and Studio facilities being provided, etc.

In so far as private FM Radio is concerned, the entire expenditure for establishment/operation of the FM Radio station is borne by the private FM operators themselves.