

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3052
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
EXPANSION OF RADIO SERVICES
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to prioritize expansion of radio services in the border areas and North-Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existing operators and new players have been waiting for the auction to expand into new territories; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that expansion of the coverage of All India Radio for improvement of reception of AIR programme along border areas including North- Eastern States is an ongoing process. Special schemes viz. North-East Special Package Phase-II, Jammu and Kashmir Special Package Phase-II and Jammu and Kashmir special Package Phase-III were approved in May 2006, September 2007 & August 2010 respectively for expansion of All India Radio & Doordarshan Services along Border areas and North-Eastern States. Most of these schemes have been implemented. Installation of new FM Transmitters along the Border areas and upgradation of MW transmitters in Arunachal Pradesh under the Digitalization Scheme as approved in 11th Plan is in progress.

To further strengthen the FM Radio coverage in the border areas, schemes for setting up 22 nos. of FM transmitters of various capacities along Indo-Nepal border, 3 nos. of 100 watt FM transmitters in the Islands of Andaman & Nicobar and 6 nos. of 10 kW FM transmitters along other border areas is envisaged in 12th Plan.

As regards Private FM, as per the approved policy guidelines on expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies (phase-III), Government proposes to extend FM radio service to about 227 new cities including 11 cities in border areas of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and North-Eastern States (NES). Details of channel proposed in these 11 cities are at Annexure.

For better offtake of channel in these cities, the Policy also provides some special incentives.

(c) & (d): Existing Private FM radio channel operators as well as new players (companies) who are eligible as per the guidelines issued on 25.07.2011, can take part in the proposed e-auction by following prescribed procedure.