

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1341

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013

E AUCTIONING OF FM RADIO CHANNELS

Ramasubbu Shri S., Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government had announced e-auctioning of 839 FM radio channels in 294 cities in Phase-III;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for inordinate delay in e-auctioning of these channels;
- (c) the estimated cost of the project and the time by which the new FM radio channels are likely to be setup;
- (d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to evolve a clear cut policy for e-auctioning of FM radio channels ;
- (e) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to counter border propaganda by setting up of high power transmitters in all border districts in the country; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The policy on expansion of FM radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III) was approved by the Cabinet on 7th July, 2011. Phase-III policy will result in coverage of all cities/towns with a population of one lakh and above (as per 2001 census).

While implementing phase-III Policy, a few issues, like charging of migration fee from existing permission holders, specific departures in the Request For Proposal (RFP), reduction in inter channels spacing etc. arose that were decided by EGoM on 6th March, 2013.

(c): The expenditure for establishment/operation of the FM Radio station is borne by the private FM operators. New FM radio channels are likely to be set up after the auction process.

(d): With the approval of Chief Vigilance Commission (CVC), Government has appointed an Independent External Monitor (IEM) to ensure probity and transparency in the entire auction process.

(e)&(f): The policy for augmentation of communication infrastructure in the Country including border areas is dynamic and continuous exercise keeping in view the availability of resources.