

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1372  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013  
COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS  
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**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of community radio stations in the country ; (b) the measures taken by the Government for the better functioning of community radio stations;
- (c) the number of pending application for setting up of community radio stations, State-wise; and
- (d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared by the Government?

**Answer**

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

(a) 161 Community Radio Stations are presently operating in the country.

(b) Several initiatives have been taken to give a fillip to the community radio sector in India. Significant initiatives are highlighted below:

i) Awareness generation & capacity building: To enhance the technical knowledge and content creation skills of existing community radio stations, 47 workshops have been organized across the country since 2007. 8 more such workshops are scheduled during the year 2012-13. Besides this, three National Sammelans of Community Radio Operators have been organised bringing together Community Radio operators, Government Ministries and Departments, UN organisations and other stakeholders for exchange of ideas and discussions.

ii) Financial Support and sustainability: The Ministry has introduced a Plan Scheme of Rs.100 Crores in the 12th Five Year Plan namely "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" to provide financial support to Community Radio Stations. This scheme envisages providing assistance to new as well as existing CR Stations for setting up studios, purchase of equipments, building capacity, and upgrading technology etc. Policy guidelines allow community radio stations (CRS) to have advertising of 5 (Five) minutes per hour of broadcast to generate funds for operational expenses and capital expenditure of the CRS. To enable CRS to generate revenue through this mechanism, Ministry has simplified guidelines for empanelment of CRS with DAVP. Ministry has also enhanced the DAVP rates for advertisement on CRS from Rs.1 per second to Rs.4 per second.

iii) Advocacy with various Ministries:

Advocacy with various Ministries including Ministry of Health, Panchayati Raj, Consumer Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Child Development etc. is also being done, so that they could involve Community Radio Stations for their communication campaigns.

iv) National Community Radio Awards: Ministry has instituted National Community Radio Awards to promote healthy competition for better programming on Community Radio Stations.

(c) & (d) 223 applications, received from various organizations, for setting up of Community Radio Stations are under inter-Ministerial clearances and examination. The state wise list of pending applications is available on Ministry's website: [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in). No time frame can be prescribed to clear all these proposals, as inter Ministerial clearances are required from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of Ministry of Communication & IT etc. to grant permission to set up community radio station.