

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4411  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014  
LICENCES TO PRIVATE PLAYERS  
Raghavan Shri M. K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has licensed the private players to operate radio stations;
- (b) if so, the details of stations allowed, State-wise and the nature of programmes allowed to broadcast; (
- (c) whether there is any proposal to draw a parallel with private electronic media and private print media and allow private radio operators to air news;
- (d) if so, the details and the measures proposed to ensure security of the nation and harmonious co-existence; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Government has granted permissions to 41 private companies to set up/operate 266 private FM radio channels across the country under Phase I and II of the policy guidelines for expansion of FM radio broadcasting through private agencies. However, out of total permission holder companies, permissions granted to 6 companies, for their 23 channels, were revoked in view of the violations of the terms and conditions of the Grant of Permission Agreement. At Present, 243 channels are operational by 37 companies. State-wise details of permission holders whose channels are operational are at Annexure I. State-wise details of stations whose permission have been revoked are at Annexure II.

As per the Phase-II Policy Guidelines every permission holder shall follow the AIR Program and Advertising Code as amended from time to time. The code does not permit attack on religion or communities, anything obscene, incitement to violence or anything against maintenance of Law and Order etc.

Further, permission holder shall be generally guided by the objective of generating local and variegated or heterogeneous content and make available quality programmes with a localized flavor in terms of content and relevance.

(c) to (e): There is no such proposal. However, As per the policy guidelines for expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies(Phase-III) the permission holder will be permitted to carry the news bulletins of All Radio in exactly same format (unaltered) on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati. Broadcast pertaining to the certain categories like information pertaining to sporting events, traffic and weather, coverage of cultural events, festivals, coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counseling, availability of employment opportunities, public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration will be treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and will therefore be permissible.