

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:198

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010

PROMOTION OF PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS

Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand/promote private radio/FM radio in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the details of funds allocated/spent for the purpose during the 11th Five Year Plan; State-wise;
- (c) the criteria/guidelines formulated for setting up such stations;
- (d) the status of the various phases expansion of such radio stations; and
- (e) the time by which such proposals likely to be implemented alongwith the other steps taken by the Government to promote private radio/FM radio stations all over the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.198 FOR ANSWER ON 23-11-2010.

- (a) Yes, Sir. The scheme of expansion is for private FM radio service only.
- (b) List of cities under consideration of the Government where private FM radio stations are proposed to be set up under Phase-III is enclosed as Annexure. Government does not incur any expenditure on setting up of Private FM Radio Stations, except for setting up of co-location facilities, if considered necessary.
- (c) Policy guidelines for setting up private FM radio stations under phase-III have not yet been approved.
- (d) A total of 21 private FM radio channels in 12 cities were operational in Phase-I of the scheme. In Phase-II the number went up to 245 (including the stations which migrated from Phase-I) spread over 85 cities in the country. It is envisaged to set up 806 private FM radio channels spread over 283 cities under Phase-III.
- (e) No definite time frame can be indicated as a Group of Ministers has been constituted for deciding the modalities to be adopted for auction of the private FM radio channels.