

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3975
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015
NEWS BROADCASTING BY PRIVATE RADIO CHANNELS
Chaudhary Shri C.R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has prohibited private radio channels and community radio centres from broadcasting news ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give permission for news broadcasting by private radio channels and community radio centres;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
{COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) & (b) : FM Radio Phase-II Policy has no provision for broadcasting news.

As regards Community Radio Stations, Clause 5

(vi) of policy guidelines for setting up community radio stations in India prescribes that "The Permission Holder shall not broadcast any programmes, which relate to news and current affairs and are otherwise political in nature".

(c) to (e) : Under the Guidelines approved for FM Radio Phase-III, permission holders shall be permitted to carry the news bulletins of All India Radio in same format, (unaltered) on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with PrasarBharati.

However, the Broadcast pertaining to the following categories will be treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and will therefore be permissible :

- a) Information pertaining to sporting events excluding live coverage, However live commentaries of sporting events of local nature may be permissible;
- b) Information pertaining to Traffic and Weather;
- c) Information pertaining to and coverage of cultural events, festivals;
- d) Coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counseling;
- e) Availability of employment opportunities;
- f) Public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration;
- g) Such other categories not permitted at present that may subsequently be specifically permitted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time.

As regards Community Radio Stations, no proposal is currently under consideration to amend the extant guidelines.