

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5213
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2015
AUCTION OF FM RADIO CHANNELS
Tharoor Dr. Shashi

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that various cities particularly Thiruvananthapuram has not been included in the Phase-III auction of new FM radio channels which purports to open 839 FM channels across 294 cities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reconsider to include Thiruvananthapuram In the second batch of FM Phase-III e-auctions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION S BROADCASTING, {COL RA3YAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a) to (e) : Thiruvananthapuram is not included under FM Phase-III auction since all the four channels available there are occupied and operational in FM Phase-II, and none is vacant. These channels are allowed to migrate to Phase-III on payment of Non-refundable One Time Migration Fee

(NOTMF), as per Cabinet approval dated 16 01.2015. The decision of the Government is to auction vacant channels in existing cities (where one or more private FM channel is already operational) under 1st batch of FM Phase-III.

As such, there is no proposal to include Thiruvananthapuram in the second batch of FM Phase-III auctions.