

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3871

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014

COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS

Hansdak Shri Vijay Kumar;K. Shri Parasuraman;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) Whether the government has any scheme to provide financial assistance for setting up Community Radio Stations (CRS);
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the financial assistance given to various CRS, state wise including Kerala;
- (c) Whether the government proposes to reduce the existing licence fees for grant of licence to operate CRS; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING; ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The Ministry has introduced a Plan Scheme in the 12th Five Year Plan namely "Supporting Community Radio Movement in India" to provide financial support to Community Radio Stations. The scheme has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 100 Crore. The scheme will support 100 new CRS and 30 existing operational community radio stations each year.

(b) Detailed Guidelines about the financial assistance are at Ministry's website: www.mib.nic.in

So far, 83 applications have been received from Letter of Intent holders and operational CRS for seeking financial assistance. Out of these, 3 applications are from Kerala. All applications are at various stages of examination.

(c) & (d): WPC Wing of Ministry of Communication and IT has intimated that based on the order issued in March 2012, annual royalty charges were revised upward for establishment of Community Radio Station (CRS), w.e.f. 01.04.2012. Further, the royalty charges of Rs.19,200/- was being levied on provisional basis, which is the same as the royalty charges payable before 01.04.2012 by licensees for community radio stations. This provisional rate was valid up to 30.06.2014. There has been no change in License fee, which is charged at a rate of Rs.500 per station, and Rs.500/- for standby equipment.