

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:537
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014
GYANVANI FM RADIO STATIONS OF AIR
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether the All India Radio (AIR) has stopped Gyanvani educational FM Radio Stations, which were being used as a teaching tool by the Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) after IGNOU's failure to clear the outstanding dues to AIR;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all contractual PrasarBharati Staff have been asked to undertake a skill test to assess their work and the new service division, which is tasked with reporting news, is first of the block with the process of skill evaluation; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COLRAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.))

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): PrasarBharati (Directorate General: All India Radio) has informed that on 1.8.2001 IGNOU signed infrastructure sharing and consultancy agreement with PrasarBharati (DG:AIR) for 37 stations of IGNOU's Gyanvani FM Radio channels. As per the agreement, IGNOU has to pay license fee etc. to PrasarBharati (DG:AIR). IGNOU has discontinued the payment of license fee w.e.f. 1.4.2013 resulting in accumulation of outstanding dues of the tune of Rs. 21,64,12,770/- as on 30.09.2014. PrasarBharati, DG:AIR issued repeated reminders for remittance of the outstanding dues and Joint Coordination Committee meeting was held at Electronic Media Production Centre, IGNOU on 29.10.2013. Notice for discontinuation was issued to IGNOU on 12.9.2014 and thereafter the operation of Gyanwani FM channels were discontinued w.e.f. 1.10.2014.

(c) &(d): Yes, Madam. PrasarBharati has informed that all casual and contractual engagees will undergo professional skill evaluation in order to optimize professional competence.