

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3383

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014

FM CHANNELS

Birla Shri Om;Chinnayan Shri S.Selvakumara;Pathak Smt. Riti

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

- (a) the number of Frequency Modulation (FM) Radio Stations targeted to be set up during the 11th Five Year Plan along with achievement made in this regard, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) the existing policy on expansion of FM radio broadcasting services including the general and financial criteria for the purpose;
- (c) the names of cities in various States where FM radio broadcasts are on air, at present, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government propose to start FM radio broadcasts from the cities which are not yet covered by the FM radio and if so, the details thereof, place, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the revenue being earned by the Government through AM and FM channels during the last year and the current year?

**Answer**

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

(a) Prasar Bharati has informed that total 287 nos. of FM Radio Stations including 100 Watt FM Relay Stations were targeted to be set up during the 11th Five year Plan throughout the country. State/UTs-wise details along with achievements are given in Annexure-I.

(b) As regards AIR FM, initially FM Radio Station were set up in all metro cities in the country. Later, FM Radio Stations and FM Relay transmitters were set up in smaller cities in the country.

In view of increased popularity of FM radio service due to superior stereophonic sound quality and noise free coverage during day and night and availability of low cost receiver sets, AIR has now decided to set up FM Radio Stations/ Relay Stations in the country for relaying local programme as well as popular channels of AIR like Vividh Bharati, AIR FM Gold and Rainbow.

As regards expansion of FM services through private agencies, the policy guidelines for the same (Phase-II) provided a revenue sharing regime instead of a fixed fee regime along with some other changes. Government has approved the policy guidelines on expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting Services through private agencies (Phase-III) in July, 2011 under this policy permission for FM Radio Channel will be awarded through ascending e-auction, as followed by the Department of Telecom for the auction of 3-G and BWA Spectrum as recommended by the Group of Ministers on Licensing Methodology for FM Phase-III.

(c) Presently, AIR FM Radio Broadcast is being provided from 373 cities in the country. State/UT-wise details are given in Annexure-II.

At present 243 private FM Radio Stations are functioning in the country under the policy on expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting Services through private agencies. The State-wise details are given Annexure-III.

(d) Yes, Madam. Scheme for setting up of 214 new AIR Stations (105 under Continuing Scheme + 109 under New Scheme) including 100 Watt FM Relay Stations has been approved in the 12th Plan. State-wise details are given in Annexure-IV(A) and (B).

Government also proposes to e-auction 839 channels in 294 cities/towns as of now, under the Policy Guidelines for expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III). A list of proposed State/UT-wise private FM radio channels are at Annexure-V.

(e) Details of revenue being earned by the Government and Prasar Bharati through AM and FM channels during the last year and the current year are as under:

Prasar Bharati	
Year	Revenue earned
2013-14	Rs. 455.78 Cr.
Current year	Rs. 211.07 Cr.
(till October 2014)	

## Details of Revenue Received from Private FM Radio operator

S.No.	Private FM Broadcaster	Amount
1.	License Fee Received in 2013-2014	Rs.102.19 Cr.
2.	License Fee Received in 2014-15 (upto 31.10.2014)	Rs.6.09 Cr.