

informed that All India Radio monitors the transmission quality of programmes broadcast by its major stations through its Monitoring Centre setup at Todapur in Delhi. Measurements are also being carried out regularly at each AIR Station to ascertain the technical parameters of the transmission. Apart from it, subjective listening surveys are being carried out for AIR broadcast channels occasionally as and when need arises to ascertain technical quality of programmes being received by the listeners. All India Radio has a wide network of Audience Research Units across the country, which periodically conduct audience surveys and regularly provide feedback about the programmes broadcast on different AIR stations/channels to the programme planners and producers for them to plan, design and modify the programmes according to the needs, tastes and aspirations of the target audience across the country. Programme Advisory Committees, constituted at many AIR stations, give their suggestions for improvement in the quality of programmes. The listeners' reactions received through their letters, e-mails, phone-calls and SMSes are also given due importance. Regional Programme Coordination Committee meetings are organized every quarter wherein programme officers from all AIR stations in the concerned state/region exchange experiences, views and ideas and formulate strategies for betterment of programmes. At almost all AIR stations, daily programme preview and review meetings are held.

Setting up of community radio stations

2244. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has proposed the setting up of new Community Radio Stations (CRS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of existing CRS being supported by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) Grant of permission to organisations to set up Community Radio Stations (CRS) is a continuous process. Ministry grants permission to Educational Institutions, Registered Societies/NGOs and Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. to set up CRS. 418 permissions have been given so far by this Ministry.

(c) Ministry does not provide any financial support to set up CRS. However, a new Plan Scheme is under consideration in the 12th Plan to provide financial and other support to Community Radio Stations.