

**Community Radio Stations**

3627. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Community Radio Stations (CRS) operating in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of applications for CRS pending with Government for clearance, at present State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study about the functioning of CRS in the States; and
- (d) if so, the outcome/results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) 148 Community Radio Stations are operational in the country. 227 applications are in various stages of inter-Ministerial clearances. State-wise details of operational Community Radio Stations (CRS) and the number of applications in various stages of inter-Ministerial clearances are available on Ministry's website: [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in).

(c) and (d) Review of the functioning of Community Radio Stations (CRS) is a continuous exercise in the Ministry. Ministry has examined issues concerning the growth and functioning of community radio stations in India. A detailed report about the operating CR Stations has been brought out in the form of CR Compendium, which is available on Ministry's website: [www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in). An Inter Ministerial Committee has also been constituted to review the functioning of this sector. This Committee meets regularly and takes stock of the progress made and challenges being faced by the Community Radio Stations.

**Advertisements harmful for vulnerable sections**

3628. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT:

SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has issued directives to take action against the advertisements that causes grave public offence or are harmful to a group of individuals, especially vulnerable sections such as women and children, and suspend them immediately;
- (b) how many complaints have been received by the Consumer Complaint

Council (CCC) in this respect during 2012 and the current year, till date, month-wise;

(c) the details of the action taken thereon, so far; and

(d) the steps being proposed to ensure strict action against misleading advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has informed that they have set up a new initiative wherein advertisements which are extremely inappropriate, indecent, vulgar and against public interest are suspended pending investigation. In cases where it appears prima facie that an advertisement is in serious breach of the ASCI code and its continued transmission on any medium causes or has the effect of causing public harm, then ASCI would, pending investigation, forthwith direct the advertiser/the advertising agency/the media buying agency and the media concerned, to suspend the advertisement.

(b) to (d) ASCI has informed that in 2012-13 they have received 2954 complaints against 784 advertisements. 640 of these complaints have been upheld and the advertisers have been asked to withdraw or modify the advertisements. More than 90% of the advertisers have complied with the orders of ASCI. ASCI informed that they will be writing to the concerned Ministries so that they can take appropriate action against the advertisers who do not comply with the ASCI orders.

#### **Decrease in regional films**

3629. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decrease in the number of regional films due to lack of interest and awareness;

(b) whether regional films dubbed in other languages require right promotion, marketing and distribution; and

(c) if so, what steps the Ministry is taking to encourage and popularise regional films in the country?