

**Ban on private FM channels on news broadcast**

2290. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has imposed prohibition on private FM channels and community radio stations on news broadcast;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government contemplates to lift the ban imposed on private FM channels, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) Private FM channels have not been permitted to broadcast news under the existing (phase-II) policy guidelines due to sensitivity of such broadcast and absence of an effective monitoring mechanism.

Clause 5(vi) of the policy guidelines for setting up community radio station in India prescribes that “the permission holder shall not broadcast any programmes, which relate to news and current affairs and are otherwise political in nature”. Further, the clause 5(i) of extant policy guidelines mentions that “The programmes should be of immediate relevance to the community. The emphasis should be on developmental, agricultural, health, educational, environmental, social welfare, community development and cultural programmes. The programming should reflect the special interests and needs of the local community”.

(c) As per the policy guidelines for expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies (phase-III) the permission holder will be permitted to carry the news bulletins of All India Radio in exactly same format (unaltered) on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati.

**Minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- per month by EPFO**

2291. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to fix a minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- per month for the subscribers of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and notify a hike in the basic wage limit to Rs. 15,000 per month for a worker to be mandatorily covered by the EPFO; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance *vide* their Office Memorandum dated 21.01.2014 has agreed to this Ministry's proposal for enhancing the minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000/- per month to the pensioners under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 by way of providing budgetary support for the financial year 2014-15 on an actual basis amounting to Rs. 1217.03 crore with the stipulation that further adjustments shall be made based on an actuarial valuation and to increase the wage ceiling from Rs. 6,500/- to Rs. 15,000/- per month subject to certain conditions. Necessary action for soliciting the requisite approval in the matter is underway.

#### **Including LPG delivery boys in the Scheduled Employment**

2292. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 743 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11 December, 2013 and to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry would take up the issue of including LPG delivery boys in the list of Scheduled Employment for Central Sphere for getting the social and other benefits; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) As regards fixing of minimum wages, the LPG delivery boys do not fall in the list of Scheduled Employments for Central Sphere. No demand for fixing of minimum wages has been received regarding LPG delivery boys.

#### **Insurance management and delivery services to injured persons by ESIC**

2293. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has taken some historic decisions touching lives of millions of injured persons involving insurance management and delivery services and if so, what are these decisions; and