

2006, provides that the basic objective of the Community Radio broadcasting is to serve the cause of the community in the service area of the permission holder by involving members of the community in the broadcast of their programmes.

(b) 179 Community Radio Stations are presently functioning in the country.

(c) Review of the functioning of Community Radio Stations (CRS) is a continuous exercise in the Ministry. The Ministry has brought out Community Radio Compendium about functioning of CRS. As per the Compendium, CRS have made substantial progress in localizing the content of their broadcast by involving communities in script writing and production of programmes. CR stations have made significant progress in dissemination of information relating to issues such as health, agriculture, education, women empowerment etc. Details are available on Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in.

(d) and (e) Permission is granted by the Ministry to set up Community Radio Stations to Educational Institutions, Registered Societies/NGOs, State Agriculture Institutions, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions and Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. So far, 398 Letters of Intent have been given to set up CRS.

The policy guidelines for setting up Community Radio Stations in India, *inter-alia*, mention that permission can be issued subject to receiving clearances from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of Ministry of Communication and IT. Clearances are also obtained from Ministry of Human Resource Development in case of Educational Institutions and Ministry of Agriculture in case of State Agriculture Institutions, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Broadcast of news bulletin by private FM channels

2653. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has agreed in principle to allow the private FM channels to broadcast news bulletin;

(b) if so, on what basis the same has been agreed;

(c) whether Government has considered the views of all stakeholders in this matter before taking any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (d) Under

the Guidelines approved for FM Radio Phase-III, permission holders shall be permitted to carry the news bulletins of All India Radio in exactly same format, on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati. No other news and current affairs programmes are permitted under FM Phase-III policy. However, Broadcast pertaining to certain categories like sporting events excluding live coverage, live commentaries of sporting events of local nature, traffic and weather, cultural events, festivals, topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counselling, availability of employment opportunities, public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration will be treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and will therefore be permissible.

Amendment of Sports Broadcasting Signals Act, 2007

2654. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Sports Broadcasting Signals Act, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private players in broadcasting sector are amassing huge money at the cost of the public broadcasters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received in the Ministry from Prasar Bharati (PB) to amend section 3(1) of the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007 to enable them to re-transmit signals of sporting events of national importance on its free-to-air networks available on various platforms. The Ministry has sought views of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the proposed amendment. The TRAI has given its comments in the matter. These are examined as part of the dynamic policy making process from time to time.

(c) and (d) The provisions of Section 3(2) of the Sports Broadcasting (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007 stipulates that the advertisement revenue sharing between the content rights owner or holder and the PB shall be in the ratio of not less than 75:25 in case of television coverage and 50:50 in case of radio coverage.