

Gyanvani educational FM radio channels

300. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Radio has taken off air all Gyanvani educational FM radio channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early restoration of the channels for benefit of lakhs of students pursuing education through non-formal channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati (Directorate General: All India Radio) has informed that on 1.8.2001 IGNOU signed infrastructure sharing and consultancy agreement with Prasar Bharati (DG:AIR) for 37 stations of IGNOU's Gyanvani FM Radio channels. As per the agreement, IGNOU has to pay licence fee etc. to Prasar Bharati (DG:AIR). IGNOU has discontinued the payment of licence fee *w.e.f.* 1.4.2013 resulting in accumulation of outstanding dues of the tune of ₹ 21,64,12,770/- as on 30.09.2014. Prasar Bharati, DG:AIR issued repeated reminders for remittance of the outstanding dues and Joint Coordination Committee meeting was held at Electronic Media Production Centre, IGNOU on 29.10.2013. Notice for discontinuation was issued to IGNOU on 12.9.2014 and thereafter the operation of Gyanvani FM channels was discontinued *w.e.f.* 1.10.2014.

(c) AIR has pursued the matter for early deposition of outstanding dues by IGNOU.

License for new FM channels

301. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to grant license for new FM channels; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of FM channels that have been registered under the Ministry; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) Yes, Sir. The