

- (e) **Indian Post Office** : Indian Post Office, the world's largest postal network has started using Twitter to interact with its users and public. The site is used even for status tracking and grievance redressal (<http://twitter.com/#!/PostOfficeIndia>).
- (f) **Municipal Corporation** : The Municipal Corporation of Delhi launched a Facebook page last year and created a forum for better interaction with citizens (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/MunicipalCorporation-of-Delhi/106030789427235>).

Banning private FM channels airing news

1853.DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has taken any decision on banning private FM stations airing news, violating the terms and conditions of license; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) and (b) Private FM channels are not permitted to broadcast news under the existing FM Radio (Phase-II) policy guidelines. However, under the guidelines approved for FM Radio Phase-III, permission holders shall be permitted to carry the news bulletin of All India Radio in exactly same format, on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati. Also, broadcast pertaining to the certain categories like sporting events (excluding live coverage of national and inter-national events), 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.

Complete digital broadcasting across the country

1854.DR. R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified bottlenecks which hamper its endeavour to achieve complete digital broadcasting across the country, if so, the details thereof; and

- (b) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that large network of All India Radio (AIR)'s Medium Wave and Short Wave and Doordarshan (DD)'s analogue television has been a major bottleneck in achieving complete digital broadcasting in the country.

To enhance digital broadcasting, AIR has initiated digital technology in its stations with Medium Wave (MW) facilities. Digitization work of AIR studios and other equipment used for production has already begun in the network. Digital connectivity through the Internet has been taken up by AIR in respect of eight channels (FM Gold, Rainbow, Vividh Bharati, Urdu, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi & Malayalam) and by DD by placing its programmes on YouTube. 21 radio channels (Programmes) of AIR, available on Doordarshan's DTH platform (DD Free Dish), have already been digitized. Recently, DD News launched an Application (App) for mobile reception. DD has also approved 63 digital transmitters under Eleventh and Twelfth Plan.

Implementation of MSDP in Kurnool District in Andhra Pradesh

1855. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nandikotkur, Sirvel, Atmakur, Changalamarri blocks and Adoni and Guntakal Mandals have been identified in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP);

(b) if so, the details of programmes/ schemes under MSDP which have been implemented in the above blocks and Mandals; and

(c) the physical targets set and achieved under MSDP since its implementation in above blocks and Mandals, block-wise and Mandal-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) As Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, it is implemented by the States/UTs based on the local needs of the minorities and therefore targets are not fixed by the Ministry. Complying with the guidelines of the MsDP, project proposals focusing on education, health, skill and drinking water sectors based on local requirements, are submitted for implementation by the States/UTs. The block and towns-wise details of projects sanctioned under MsDP for Kurnool District are given in the Statement.