(b) whether the steps are being made to set up an ombudsman to monitor and regulate the misuse of public money by the Government of the day by giving advertisements to gain political mileage; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) The amount of money spent/committed on various Government advertisements issued by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), a media unit and an attached office under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, during the last six months (till March, 2015) through various media vehicle is as under:

Media	Amount of Advertisements (in ₹)
Print Media	2,60,55,30,925/-
Audio Visual	4,51,03,07,514/-
Outdoor Publicity	69,02,08,380/-
TOTAL	7,80,60,46,819/-

(b) and (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India appointed a Committee for suggesting the guidelines on Government funded Advertisement with reference to a Writ Petition filed by common cause. The Committee has advocated for appointment of an Ombudsman to receive complaints of violation of guidelines prepared by them and to recommend action in accordance with the guidelines. The Committee also suggested that the Ombudsman may recommend suitable changes to the Guidelines to deal with new circumstances and situations. The concerned Writ Petition was taken up by Hon'ble Supreme Court for hearing on 17th February, 2015. Hon'ble Supreme Court has reserved the case for final judgement.

Community radio stations

582. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating any steps to effectively harness the potential of community radio stations as an important tool for empowerment of masses specially women and marginalized community;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal under consideration for facilitating enhanced role of the State Governments in community radio stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) and (b) Community Radios can play an important role in reaching out to the community providing information on various issues including schemes and programmes of the Government. They can not only make people aware about their rights and entitlements but can prove to be an important tool for empowerment of people especially for women and marginalized communities.

Ministry is doing advocacy with various Ministries including Ministry of Health, Panchayati Raj, Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Forest and Ministry of Women and Child Development etc., so that they could involve Community Radio Stations for their communication campaigns.

(c) As per clause 8(ii) of the policy guidelines for setting up of community radio station in India, Central & State Governments can engage community radio stations to broadcast public interest information and sponsored programmes. Ministry has finalised rates and guidelines for sponsored programmes on community radio stations, which are available on Ministry's website, *www.mib.nic.in.* State Governments can engage with community radio stations on the basis of guidelines finalised by the Ministry.

Local news content in private FM channels

583. DR. K. V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the response to the community radio stations is encouraging;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will allow local news content in the Private FM Channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE) : (a) and (b) Review of the functioning of Community Radio Stations (CRS) is a continuous exercise in the