

- (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](http://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

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](http://www.mib.nic.in) Ministry has not conducted any study about effectiveness of community radio stations.

(c) and (d) Under the guidelines approved for FM Radio Phase-III, Private FM radio permission holders shall 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.

The broadcast pertaining to the following categories will be treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and will therefore be permissible:-

- (a) Information pertaining to sporting events excluding live coverage. However live commentaries of sporting events of local nature may be permissible;
- (b) Information pertaining to Traffic and Weather;
- (c) Information pertaining to and coverage of cultural events, festivals;
- (d) Coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counseling;
- (e) Availability of employment opportunities;
- (f) Public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc., as provided by the local administration.

#### **New Akashwani Stations**

†584. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has chalked out any plan to open new Akashwani stations in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the places in Bihar where they are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.