

television, if so, the details thereof, and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the plan, if successfully implemented, will see the Government's video response on the same channel refuting the report that was presented minutes ago, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Illegal Community Radio Operators

1105. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 100 community radio operators in the country, out of 187 radio stations, are currently operating illegally, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a majority of them do not have the licence to operate and as for the rest, they do not have valid agreements with Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) Currently 188 community radio stations (CRSs) are operational in the country. These CRSs have signed Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to set up and operate community radio station. As per guidelines for setting up of community radio station in India, GOPA period is 5 years. Out of 188 operational CRSs, GOPA of 100 CRSs have completed 5 years term. Policy guidelines do not prescribe the course of action to be adopted for renewal of GOPA after expiry of 5 years. Therefore, a reference was made to TRAI on 8th January 2014 to examine issues arising out of the expiry of the period of GOPA and provide its recommendations to the Ministry. TRAI replied on 23.01.2014 that till recommendations are made, Ministry may renew CRS GOPAs for an interim period. Accordingly, Ministry renewed GOPAs for the period up to 06.02.2015 to allow CRS permission holders to continue their operations on existing terms and conditions. TRAI has submitted its recommendations on renewal of GOPA. Meanwhile Ministry is also in the process of renewing GOPAs, pending decision on TRAI recommendations.