

FM News Channel

1107. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is considering to allow FM channels for news on the lines of TV news channels; and

(b) if not, whether Government will allow news broadcasts on existing FM channels or allow them to relay the news bulletins of All India Radio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Under the Guidelines approved for FM Radio Phase-III, permission holders have been permitted to carry the news bulletins of All India Radio in same format (unaltered) on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati.

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

- (i) Information pertaining to sporting events excluding live coverage, However live commentaries of sporting events of local nature may be permissible;
- (ii) Information pertaining to Traffic and Weather;
- (iii) Information pertaining to and coverage of cultural events, festivals;
- (iv) Coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counselling ;
- (v) Availability of employment opportunities;
- (vi) Public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration;
- (vii) Such other categories not permitted at present, that may subsequently be specifically permitted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time-to-time.