Adoption of digital radio technology by broadcasters

1678. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the radio industry, including public and private FM broadcasters, to adopt digital radio technology;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the digital radio provides benefits to all stakeholders, including listeners, manufacturers, broadcasters and regulators; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that as far as All India Radio (AIR) is concerned, AIR has already introduced digital radio technology in the AIR Network by installing new State of the art Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) Technology transmitters by replacing old outlived 37 Medium Wave/Short Wave transmitters.

As regards private FM, as per provisions contained in Policy Guidelines on expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III), there is no provision for private FM broadcasters to adopt digital radio technology.

(b) and (c) Digital Radio allows significant improvements in service reliability, audio quality, more radio services and higher efficiency.

Installation and upgradation of transmitters by AIR

1679. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Radio has already completed the technical installation and upgradation of 37 transmitters in the first phase of digitization of radio broadcasts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the digitization would allow listeners to purchase receivers at an affordable price; 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) Yes Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that AIR has installed 35 new state of art technology