

**News broadcasting in FM radio channels**

2481. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received any representations to give permission to broadcast news in FM channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has objected to such requests and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) Representations have been received from some private FM radio broadcasters regarding carriage of news of All India Radio (AIR). As per clause 11.1 of the FM Ph-III Policy guidelines, permission holders are permitted to carry the news bulletins of AIR in exactly same format (unaltered) on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati.

**Modernisation of AIR and Doordarshan**

†2482. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has modernised All India Radio and Doordarshan to make them popular;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of improvement in effectiveness and quality of broadcast after their modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that as far as All India Radio is concerned, AIR has carried out modernisation and technological upgradation of its network (approved under Eleventh Plan). Details are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

In addition to above, schemes for modernisation and technological upgradation of its network have also been undertaken under Twelfth Plan. Details are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.