

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3279  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2022**

**“FINANCIAL LOSS TO FM RADIO STATIONS”**

**3279. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that FM radio industry has suffered huge financial loss due to COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has received any representation from FM radio industry seeking financial aid/assistance;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by Government thereon?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF  
YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

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(a) to (d) Association of Radio Operators for India (AROI) vide letters dated 16.03.2020, 12.05.2020 and 19.05.2020 has informed the Government that COVID-19 crisis has resulted in massive drop in advertisements on Private FM Radio. Since advertisement are the only source of revenue for this free to air media, AROI raised certain requests for FM radio industry seeking financial assistance in the form of waiver of license fee, waiver of tower rentals and other charges, etc. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, Government deferred the payment of license fee of Quarter-1 FY 2020-21 up to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for private FM Radio broadcasters.

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