

**Coverage of FM radio services**

2690. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy to cover the FM radio services both private and public sectors to the cities across the country; and

(b) the details of targets fixed and achievements made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) **Private Sector:**

Presently, 245 FM channels are operational under existing Phase-II Policy guidelines on expansion of FM radio broadcasting services through private agencies. Further, as per approved policy guidelines on expansion of FM radio broadcasting services through private agencies in Phase-III, Government proposes to extend FM radio service to about 227 new cities, in addition to the present 86 cities, with a total of 839 new private FM radio channels in 294 cities, Phase-III policy will result in coverage of all cities with a population of one lakh and above except private FM radio channels in North East (NE) Region and Jammu and Kashmir and Island territories, which are having a population of less than 1 lakh.

**Public Sector :**

Presently, All India Radio (AIR) FM service is provided from 217 places across the country and the coverage in FM Mode is by 41.43% of population of the country. For covering the entire country by FM channels, huge funds are required. Therefore, FM expansion in the country is being taken up in the phased manner depending upon availability of funds, and inter-se priority.

**(b) Private Sector:**

As per time schedule for implementation of Policy Guidelines on expansion of FM radio broadcasting through private agencies, (Phase-III), ascending e-auction process is to be initiated for issuing permissions for FM radio channels in batches over a period of 3 years with the approval of Hon'ble Minister in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

**Public Sector:**

As regards, AIR, the scheme for installation of 311 new FM Transmitters of various capacities in the country was approved during 11th Plan, 173 nos. of Transmitters under the Continuing Scheme and 138 nos. of Transmitters under the new scheme and their current status is as below:

Sl. No.	11th Plan Scheme	No. of New FM Transmitters approved	Transmitters installed till March' 2012	Transmitters in Progress	Pending due to non-allotment of Site from State Govts.
1.	Continuing Scheme	173	126	41	6
2.	New Scheme	138	3	135 (Transmitters, ordered for 115 places)	-

#### **Demand of DTH and TV sets**

†2691. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand was made by Government of Himachal Pradesh to the Central Government for 20,000 DTH along with equal number of colour TV sets for backward classes from Prasar Bharati in 2009-10;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has accepted the above demands; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and by when the demands would be accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) to (c) 20000 DTH receive systems have already been provided to Government of Himachal Pradesh. The request for providing 20000 TV sets and additional 20000 DTH receive systems has been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh in 2008. There is no scheme for distribution of TV Sets to the State Governments, however the request for distribution of additional 20000 DTH receive systems to Himachal Pradesh is under consideration by the Government.

#### **Airing of religious programmes**

†2692. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various religious programmes are being aired on television channels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no programme based on Islam is aired by Bhaskar T.V. based in Jaipur, Rajasthan and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi