

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2319
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2025)

EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS IN SIKKIM:

2319 SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA:

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

- a. Whether any Community Radio initiatives from the State of Sikkim have applied for or availed benefits under these schemes in the last five years;
- b. if so, the details thereof, including the number of applications received, sanctioned, and pending from Sikkim;
- c. whether Government proposes to expand or facilitate the setting up of additional Community Radio Stations in small and hilly States like Sikkim; and
- d. if so, the details of steps being taken or proposed to improve outreach, capacity building, and technical support for Community Radio in the State?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(Dr. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (d): Government supports Community Radio Stations through financial assistance to establish, repair, and maintain community radio stations. It implements a scheme called 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' to strengthen existing and new Community Radio Stations.

The main features of the scheme are as follows:

1. Financial assistance to newly established CRSs after they have been operational for three months
2. Stations operating for over five years receive support for renewing or replacing old equipment.
3. Training and awareness through workshops, webinars, and sammelans.
4. Stakeholder Engagement through regional and national events to enable peer learning among CR stakeholders

In the last five years, the Ministry has received one application from the state of Sikkim for availing benefits under the scheme “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India”, which was sanctioned as per the prescribed guidelines of the scheme.

In order to expand and facilitate the setting up of additional Community Radio Stations (CRS) and for capacity building, technical support of CRS, the Government organizes a number of workshops and regional sammelans in various parts of the country.

One workshop was held in Gangtok, Sikkim in November 2024 and one regional sammelan was organized at Guwahati, Assam in December 2025 for the East Zone states.
