

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *150
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2026)**

COMMUNITY RADIO AND ALL INDIA RADIO BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE:

***150 SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of community radio stations currently operating in the country and the steps taken by Government to expand their reach;
- (b) the details of the financial assistance provided to community radio stations in rural and border areas, particularly in Jharkhand; and
- (c) whether any action plan is being implemented by Government to modernize the broadcasting infrastructure of Akashvani (All India Radio), if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND ELECTRONICS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *150 FOR REPLY ON 31.07.2026**

(a) to (c):

At present, 565 Community Radio Stations are operating across the country. Community Radios are supported under "**Supporting Community Radio Movement in India**" – a Central Sector Scheme. The objectives of the scheme are to strengthen new and existing Community Radio Stations (CRSs) with resources, capacity and technology. The key components of the scheme include providing financial assistance to new and existing CRSs for procurement or replacement of equipment and, capacity building and training of community radio operators.

To create awareness and promote knowledge sharing, the Ministry organises workshops, seminars, and regional/national Sammelans across the country under the scheme. Also, the policy guidelines prescribe at least 50 percent of the content of Community Radio Stations is generated with community participation, with at least half of such content focusing on women empowerment.

The details of CRSs including 06 CRSs in Jharkhand are available at Ministry's website at <https://mib.gov.in/> .

Two CRSs from Jharkhand have been provided financial assistance under the scheme amounting to Rs.19,67,826/- in Palamu and Godda district. Also, one Community Radio Awareness Workshop was held in Ranchi, Jharkhand in February 2024.

Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme is a Central Sector Scheme for development, modernization and upgradation of Doordarshan and Akashvani's broadcasting infrastructure, approved with an outlay of ₹2539.61 crore for 2021-26 and extended upto 31.03.2027.

Under BIND scheme, works completed so far include digitalization of 127 studios, replacement of 38 MW transmitters with MW transmitters having DRM transmission capability, commissioning of 123 FM transmitters. Major modernization projects viz upgradation of Satcom equipment at 32 earth stations, replacement/provision of 20 Studio Transmitter Links (STLs), installation of Visual Radio Systems at studios of 33 stations, replacement of analogue consoles at the studios of 68 stations along with studio automation at New Delhi, setting up of 82 new FM transmitters, and replacement/upgradation of 126 old FM transmitters have been approved under the BIND Scheme.
