

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2832  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018)**

**SERVICES OF COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS**

**2832. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH**

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

- a) the programmes and schemes aimed at improving the services of community radio stations;
- b) whether the Government is aware of the regulatory issues pertaining to achieve the optimal financial viability by community radio stations which are affecting the revenues of community radio service providers; and
- c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereupon?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]**

(a) to (c) Community Radio is an important third tier in broadcasting, distinct from public service and commercial media. Community Radio Stations (CRS) are essentially low power radio stations which are meant to be set up and operated by the local communities where they may air local voices on issues concerning their lives. Various steps are undertaken to improve the services of Community Radio (CR) stations from time to time. Ministry is aware of the issues faced by CR stations to meet running expenses and therefore, vide Order No. 104/103/2013-CRS dated 19.01.2017, has amended point 8(ii) of the policy guidelines to increase the maximum duration of advertisement from 5 minutes per hour of broadcast to 7 minutes per hour of broadcast. In addition to this, Ministry also provides grant, up to 7.5 lakhs, for purchasing equipment for setting up of CR station.

Further, the Policy Guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Station in India state that organizations operating with a motive to earn a profit shall not be eligible to run a CR station.

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