

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1839
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2018**

FM SERVICE

**1839 SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

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

- (a) whether there are a number of villages which are yet to be covered under FM Service across the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the norms/criteria laid down by the Government for setting up of Radio Stations in the country;
- (c) whether the cases of violation of said norms/criteria have come to the notice of the Government since approval of “policy guidelines on expansion of FM radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III)” in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of complaints received by the Government for irregularities/ corruption in e-auction of FM channels of Phase-III along with action taken/being taken thereon; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to cover each and every village of the country by FM Service along with the achievements thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING {COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

(a), (b) & (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that AIR does not establish FM radio stations village-wise. At present, AIR FM Service covers 52% of the total population of the country.

AIR implements the approved scheme for installation of FM transmitter to provide coverage in uncovered, border and remote areas.

The Policy on expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III) approved by Union Cabinet on 07.07.2011 seeks to extend FM radio services to 227 new and uncovered cities. The private FM radio Phase-III Policy is city centric and mandates to cover all cities having population above one lakh as per census 2001 with private FM radio channels. Further, 11 towns in Jammu & Kashmir, North East & Island Territories having population less than one lakh have also been approved for setting up FM radio stations.

- (c) No such cases of violation of said norms/criteria have come to the notice of the Government.
- (d) No complaints have been received.
