

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 299
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2023)**

COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS

299. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA:

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

- (a) the salient features of Community Radio Stations (CRSs);
- (b) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized so far for setting up of these stations in the country, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan;
- (c) the number of CRSs established in the country, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan;
- (d) the number of CRSs being operated so far in the country, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan;
- (e) whether the Government has fixed any target for setting up of these stations especially in remote/ far flung areas of the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING;

AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

[SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR]

(a) The Salient feature of Community Radio Stations (CRSs) are as under:-

- (i) Community Radio Stations are low power FM Radio stations, having a broadcasting coverage in the range of 5-10 Kms.
- (ii) Permission to establish Community Radio Station (CRS) in India, is granted to not-for-profit organisations. These include NGOs, educational institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), etc.
- (iii) The Community Radio stations provide a platform to the community for broadcasting programmes on local issues concerning health, nutrition, education, agriculture, etc.
- (iv) Community Radio stations are required to generate at least 50% of content with the participation of the local community.

(b) The Community Radio stations are set up by the permission holders using their own funds. However, the Government provides financial assistance amounting upto Rs. 10.00 lakh (upto Rs. 12 lakh for CRS in North Eastern States) to Permission holders towards setting up of infrastructure, once they setup and operationalise the station for at least 3 months. So far , a total of 119 CRSs have received financial assistance amounting to Rs. 8.86 crores towards Infrastructure for CRS. The State/ UT wise details of CRS are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of the State /UT	Number of Stations received Financial Assistance
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1
2	Assam	1
3	Bihar	2
4	Chhattisgarh	2
5	Delhi	2
6	Gujarat	3
7	Haryana	6
8	Himanchal Pradesh	1
9	J&K	1
10	Karnataka	10
11	Kerala	6
12	Ladakh	1
13	Madhya Pradesh	11
14	Maharashtra	12
15	Manipur	4
16	Nagaland	1
17	Odisha	6
18	Puducherry	1
19	Punjab	2
20	Rajasthan	7
21	Sikkim	1
22	Tamil Nadu	10
23	Telangana	2
24	Tripura	1
25	Uttar Pradesh	22
26	Uttarakhand	3
	Total	119

(c) and (d) As on November, 2023 a total of 474 Community Radio Stations are established/operational in the country. Out of the total 474 CRSs, 72 CRSs are operational in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. List of Operational Community Radio Stations in the country is as under:-

List of Community Radio Stations established/operated in the country, State/UT-wise		
S.No.	Name of States/UTs	No. of Operational Community Radio Station
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
4.	Assam	5
5.	Bihar	13
6.	Chandigarh	5
7.	Chhattisgarh	13
8.	Delhi	5
9.	Gujarat	15
10.	Haryana	22
11.	Himachal Pradesh	7
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
13.	Jharkhand	3
14.	Karnataka	25
15.	Kerala	21
16.	Ladakh	1
17.	Madhya Pradesh	40
18.	Maharashtra	50
19.	Manipur	4
20.	Meghalaya	1
21.	Nagaland	1
22.	Odisha	40
23.	Puducherry	2
24.	Punjab	9
25.	Rajasthan	27
26.	Sikkim	1
27.	Tamil Nadu	45
28.	Telangana	10
29.	Tripura	1
30.	Uttar Pradesh	58
31.	Uttarakhand	15
32.	West Bengal	14
Total		474

(e) and (f) The setting up of Community Radio is a voluntary activity by eligible organisations. To increase the number of CRS in the country, the Government has taken several measures including provisioning of Financial Assistance for infrastructure and awareness workshops especially in Remote and far flung areas of the country. As a result, the number of CRS has grown from 140 in 2014 to 474 as of the November 2023 which is a growth of more than 300% in the sector.