

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*359
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021**

“FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FM INDUSTRY”

***359. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that FM Radio industry has suffered huge financial loss due to Covid-19 Pandemic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether his Ministry has received any representation from FM Radio industry seeking financial aid/assistance;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA
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(a) to (d) Association of Radio Operators for India (AROI) has informed the Government that COVID-19 crisis has resulted in massive drop in advertisements on Private FM Radio. Since these advertisement are the only source of revenue for this free to air media, AROI raised certain demands for FM radio industry seeking financial assistance in the form of waiver of one year license fee, waiver of tower rentals and other charges, waiver of spectrum fees, Zero or 5% GST, restoration of Government advertisements to normal levels, full waiver of minimum guarantee of 2.5% of Non-Refundable One Time Entry Fee (NOTEF) till end of license period and two-year extension in terms of license period, etc. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, Government deferred the payment of license fee of Quarter-1 FY 2020-21 up to 15th July 2020 for private FM Radio broadcasters.

Government on 15th June 2020 intimated the FM Radio industry that in terms of provisions of FM Phase-III policy guidelines, there is no provision in the FM Radio Policy Guidelines, 2011 to grant any waiver in either the annual or the quarterly fee, which is due to the Government. It is also not possible to modify the annual fee formula. The other demands of the Radio Industry were also taken up with the concerned Ministries of the Government. Further, the private FM broadcasters were also apprised of the special economic and comprehensive package announced by the Government called *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan* of more than Rs.20 lakh crore equivalent to 10% of India's GDP, in the fight against COVID-19.
