

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.372
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2021**

“Setting up of New FM and Community Radio Stations”

372. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any policy relating to FM stations and Community Radio stations in each district in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to start an FM and Community Radio station in Kasaragod (Kerala) district if the land is made available/allocated and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the kilowatts capacity of the Kannur FM and Community station;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to increase the kilowatts capacity, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is preparing any auction for FM station under the private sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the criteria for a private party to set up a new FM and Community Radio station; and
- (g) Whether there is any proposal/intent from any private players to start an FM and Community Radio station in the Kasaragod district and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

a: Under the Policy Guidelines on Expansion of FM radio broadcasting service through private agencies (Phase-III), the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting grants FM Radio license to private companies registered in India under the Companies Act, 2013. The Private FM Radio Phase-III Policy being city centric provides for setting up of FM radio stations in all cities having population above one lakh, unless it is getting covered from an adjacent city. Further, 11 cities in Border

Areas of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, UT of Ladakh and North East States having population less than 1 lakh have also been approved for setting up FM radio stations.

The Government has also laid a Policy Guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations (CRS) in India. Setting up of CRS is a voluntary activity by the not-for-profit organization, fulfilling the eligibility conditions as prescribed in the policy.

The Policy Guidelines on both Private FM Radio (Ph-III) and CRS are available on Ministry's website www.mib.gov.in

In addition, Prasar Bharati has informed that it is having 523 FM transmitters located at 483 All India Radio (AIR) Stations across the country.

b: Prasar Bharati is having a 100W AIR FM Relay Centre in Kasaragod district in the State of Kerala. There is no proposal under consideration for setting up of CRS in Kasaragod (Kerala) district.

c & d: Prasar Bharati has one 10 KW AIR FM transmitter at Kannur which was upgraded from 6 kW to 10 KW in the year 2018. One CRS is being operated by Academic & Technical Education Development Society in Kannur, Kerala having permitted transmitter power of 100 Watts (ERP). There is no proposal to further increase the kilowatts capacity of this CRS.

e : Under FM Phase-III, Government has approved to auction 683 channels in 236 cities.

f: Under the Private FM Radio (Ph-III) Policy only companies registered in India under the Companies Act and meeting net worth criteria and other conditions as enumerated in the policy shall be eligible for bidding and obtaining permission for FM radio channels.

As per the CRS Policy Guidelines, not-for-profit community-based organizations, which satisfy basic principles enumerated as per the Policy Guidelines, are eligible for applying for Community Radio licenses.

g : Presently, no application, from any private organization/institution for setting up Community Radio Station in Kasaragod district, is under consideration.
