

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 329
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024**

E-AUCTION FOR PRIVATE FM CHANNELS.

329 SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has approved a proposal for e-auction to set up 730 private FM channels in 234 major cities across the country, including Palakkad, with an estimated reserve price of Rs. 784.87 crore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government has also approved to charge FM channel's annual license fee at 4 percent of the gross revenue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the move would fulfil the unmet demand for FM radio in the places that are not yet covered and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS, INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING,
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

a) to d) Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for e-auction of 730 Pvt. FM Channels in 234 new cities including Palakkad, Kerala with a total estimated reserve price of Rs. 784.87 Crore. The details are available on Ministry's website www.mib.gov.in. This will enhance access to diverse and local content, increased opportunities for content creators thus encouraging creativity, employment and encouraging local languages as well as cultures.

The Cabinet has also approved to charge a relaxed Annual License Fee at 4 percent of Gross revenue excluding GST for 234 new uncovered cities. The move will bring down the operational cost of running FM stations in new cities and will help expand radio coverage in the uncovered cities/towns.
