

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 482

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025)

CRS IN TAMIL NADU

482. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:

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

- (a) the details of steps taken by the Government to implement and promote Community Radio Stations (CRS) in Tamil Nadu along with the number of CRS which have been established in the State so far;
- (b) the details of the reach and coverage of these Community Radio Stations in Tamil Nadu particularly in rural, remote and underserved areas and the manner in which they are benefiting local communities;
- (c) the details of financial and technical support which has been provided to encourage the establishment of Community Radio Stations in Tamil Nadu particularly for non-governmental organisations and educational institutions;
- (d) the details of content being broadcasted by these stations and the manner in which the Government is ensuring that the information provided through CRS is relevant and useful to the local population, including in regional languages; and
- (e) the details of challenges which have been faced in the implementation of Community Radio Stations such as licensing issues, infrastructure barriers or financial sustainability along with measures being taken to address these challenges?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (e): The government grants community radio licenses under a policy, which is available on the website: <https://mib.gov.in/ministry/our-wings/broadcasting-wing>.

As per the policy, Community Radio Stations can be established by not-for-profit organizations with a proven record of three years of service to the local community. The policy mandates that the programmes aired by the Community Radio Stations should be relevant to the educational, developmental, social and cultural requirements of the community.

Government supports Community Radio Stations through financial assistance to establish, repair, and maintain community radio stations. Support is also provided during emergencies like floods, cyclones, or lightning damage.

Government is implementing a scheme called 'Supporting Community Radio Movement in India' with an outlay of Rs. 50 Cr. It is designed to strengthen existing and new Community Radio Stations.

The main features of the scheme are as follows:

1. Financial assistance to newly established CRSs after they have been operational for three months.
2. Stations operating for over five years receive support for renewing or replacing old equipment.
3. Training and awareness through workshops, webinars, and sammelans.
4. Stakeholder engagement through regional and national events to enable peer learning among CR stakeholders.

The Government has sanctioned 540 Community Radio Stations throughout the country. Out of these, 48 are in Tamil Nadu, spread over 24 districts. These stations have been undertaking significant work in the areas of disaster management, sea conservation, health and hygiene, among others.

During the last three financial years, a total sum of Rs. 40,03,098/- has been released to the Community Radio Stations located in Tamil Nadu.
