

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4233
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026)

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY RADIO SUPPORT SCHEME:

4233. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is currently implementing the Community Radio Support Scheme to promote community-based broadcasting across the country;
- (b) if so, the objectives and key components of the scheme along with the financial assistance provided to eligible institutions during the last three years;
- (c) the total number of new community radio stations approved under the scheme during this period, State- wise specifically Rajasthan;
- (d) whether the Government has received any feedback or grievances from applicants regarding delays in approvals, funding disbursement or technical support; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the scheme, expand coverage in underserved regions and improve participatory communication for local communities?

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

(a) to (e):

The Government has approved a Central Sector Scheme named “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India” to promote community-based broadcasting across the country. The objectives of the scheme are to strengthen new and existing Community Radio Stations (CRSs) with resources, capacity and technology; to promote growth of community radio, particularly in remote and rural areas; and to facilitate socio-economic and cultural development by providing communities with a platform for local voices and participation in development processes.

The amount of financial assistance provided under the scheme during last 3 years is Rs. 11.24 Crore. During the period April 2021 to February 2026, a total of 149 CRSs across the country have been provided financial support under the scheme including 8 stations in Rajasthan.

The key components of the scheme include providing financial assistance to new and existing CRSs for procurement or replacement of equipment; capacity building and training of community radio operators; organisation of workshops, seminars and regional/national Sammelans for gathering feedback, creating awareness and promoting knowledge sharing; and other support measures aimed at strengthening the community radio stations and improving the sustainability of CRSs. The feedback received during these interactions are duly examined and incorporated, wherever appropriate, in the policy guidelines and advisories issued by the Ministry from time to time.

As per policy guidelines, at least 50% of the content of Community Radio Stations is mandatorily generated with community participation, with at least half of such content focusing on women empowerment.
