

**Title: Regarding increasing the frequency range of Community Radio Stations in the country-laid**

**SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR):** The Community Radio Stations (CRS) play an important role in the national integration and social empowerment around the World especially in developing countries. In India also, the Government is encouraging to set up Community Radio across the country. But there shall be more measures to support these community radio stations. Most importantly, the frequency range shall be increased as double of now as the current frequency range is not sufficient to cover the communities like education and agriculture as these communities are widely spread. CRS shall be supported with an annual financial package considering their performances. It will empower them to initiate more fruitful engagements with the communities. Many CRSs in India face financial challenges to run the stations. The copyright law shall be amended accordingly to ensure CRS to avail film songs for free of cost. I would like to request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to look into these matters and to initiate measures to support and encourage Community Radio Stations in the country.