

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4360
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2005
OPERATING COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS
Murmu Shri Rupchand

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

- (a) the number of community radio stations which are operational at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has received applications/requests from educational institutions to operate community radio stations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether Gram Panchayats and other Local Bodies are eligible for licenses for Community Radio Broadcasting; and
- (e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S.JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) Seven community radio stations are operational at present. The State-wise details are following: Tamilnadu-3, Pondicherry-1, Rajasthan-1, Maharashtra-1, Uttar Pradesh-1.

(b)&(c) Yes, Sir. Till date, 68 applications have been received. 48 eligible applications have been referred to Ministry of Home Affairs & Human Resource Development for clearance and Ministry of Communications & IT for availability of frequency. In case of 30 institutions clearances have been received from the concerned ministries and subsequently letters of intent have been issued to them. Of these 20 institutions have signed license agreement with us after allocation of frequency by Ministry of Communication and 7 of them are operational at present.

(d)&(e) No, Sir. As per the present policy only educational institutions are eligible to seek licenses for Community Radio Broadcasting.