

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1596
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
RADIO STATIONS BY PRIVATE SECTOR
Surendran Shri Chengara

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

- (a) whether the Union Government had conducted any study of the existence of Radio Station under Prasar Bharati with the entering of private companies in the field;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of private companies allowed to set up their Radio Stations so far ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir. However Audience Research Units of AIR conduct Radio Programme Listenership for different radio channels on yearly basis. All India Radio network comprises of 223 stations with 358 transmitters and covers 99.13% (of the country) by population and 91.42% by area. The entry of Pvt. Broadcasters has only small effect on the listenership of AIR because the existing Pvt. Radio Channels cover only 3.3% by area and 9.3% by population of the country.

(c) : So far 42 private companies have been allowed to set up their FM radio stations.