

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:775
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
LAUNCHING OF FM STATION
Appadurai Shri M.

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

- (a) whether several Newspaper Companies/Groups have submitted applications for launching FM Stations in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the number of applications pending for clearance, language-wise along with the details of such groups; and
- (c) the time by which these applications are likely to be expedited ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A policy for expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting Service through private agencies was notified in July, 2005. Government invited bids for 337 channels in 91 cities across the country under this scheme out of which 280 channels were successfully bid. After scrutiny, Letters of Intent were issued to various companies for operationalisation of 245 channels and agreement has been signed with all successful bidders. The successful bidders include Newspaper groups/companies. No application is pending for clearance.