

No. N-35016/1/2021-O/o DD(CRS)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

New Delhi, the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2022

**ORDER**

The Government of India laid the Policy Guidelines for setting up Community Radio Stations in India in the year 2002. The said Policy Guidelines were comprehensively amended in the year 2006. Subsequently, in the year 2017 and 2018, partial amendments to the Policy Guidelines were carried out.

2. The Government of India has now decided to further amend the Policy Guidelines as provided below.

(A) The clause 3, 'Selection process and processing of the applications' shall be read as under:

*3. Selection Process & Processing of the applications*

*(a) Applications shall be invited by the Ministry of I&B once every year through a national advertisement for establishment of Community Radio Stations. However, eligible organisations and educational institutions can apply during the intervening period between the two advertisements also. The applicants shall be required to apply in the prescribed application form along with a processing fee of Rs. 2500/- and the applications shall be processed in the following manner:*

*i) Government Universities, Deemed Universities (Central and State), Government Colleges, Government Schools and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (run by Government) will have single window clearance. No separate clearance shall be necessary. A meeting of Inter-Ministerial Committee shall be convened to consider applications from such organizations. After approval by Secretary, I&B, Letter of Intent (LoI) shall be issued, subject to availability of Frequency spot, provided by Ministry of Communication, at the location proposed by the applicant in its application.*

*ii) In case of all other applicants, including private educational institutions, LOI shall be issued subject to receiving clearance from Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence and subject to availability of Frequency spot provided by Ministry of Communication, at the location proposed by the applicant in its application.*

*(b) A time schedule for obtaining clearances as below shall be prescribed:*

- i) Within one month of receipt of the application in the prescribed form, the Ministry of I&B shall process the application and either communicate to the applicant deficiencies, if any, or will forward the application to the other Ministries for clearance as prescribed in para 3(a)(i) and 3(a)(ii) above, as the case may be.*
- ii) The Ministries concerned shall communicate their clearance within three months of receipt of the application. However, in the event of the failure of the concerned ministry to grant the clearance within the stipulated period of three months, the case shall be referred to the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) for a decision for issue of LOI.*
- iii) In the event of more than one applicant for a single frequency at a given place, the successful applicant will be selected for issue of LOI from amongst the applicants by the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) on the basis of their standing in the community, the commitment shown, the objectives enunciated and resources likely to be mobilized by the applicant organisation as well as its credentials and number of years of community service rendered by the organisation.*
- iv) Within one month of the issue of the Letter of Intent (LOI) the LOI holder shall furnish a bank guarantee in the prescribed format for a sum of Rs. 25,000/-. Thereupon, the LOI holder will be required to sign a Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) with the Ministry of I&B, which will enable him to seek Wireless Operating License (WOL) from the Ministry of Communication after deposit of requisite fees, as applicable. The Community Radio Station can be made operational only after the receipt of WOL from the Ministry of Communication.*
- v) Within one month of signing of GOPA, the permission holder shall apply for WOL to the Ministry of Communication.*
- vi) A time frame of three months from the date of application of WOL is prescribed for issue of WOL. In the event of non-receipt of such clearance from the Ministry of Communication within the stipulated period of three months, the case will be referred to the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) for a decision.*
- vii) Within six months of signing of GOPA, the Permission Holder shall set up the Community Radio Station and shall intimate the date of commissioning of the Community Radio Station to the Ministry of I&B.*
- viii) Failure to comply with time schedule prescribed above shall make the LOI/GOPA holder liable for cancellation of its LOI/GOPA and forfeiture of the Bank Guarantee.*

(B) Clause 5(iv) of the Policy Guidelines shall be read as under:

*The Permission Holder shall have to adhere to the provisions of the Programme and Advertising Code as prescribed by Prasar Bharti for All India Radio.*

(C) Ministry of Communications & IT, as mentioned anywhere in the Policy Guidelines, may be read as Ministry of Communication.

3. This issues with the approval of competent authority.



(C. Senthil Rajan)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Copy to:

1. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
2. Secretary, Department of Telecommunications.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Defence.
5. Secretary, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
6. Wireless Advisor, Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing.
7. CEO, Prasar Bharti