

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:263

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000

AIR AND TV TRANSMITTERS ON INDO - BANGLADESH BORDER

NEPAL CHANDRA DAS

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

(a) the details of steps taken by the Government since June, 1998 till now to strengthen the AIR and Television transmission in border areas of the country to combat the anti-India campaign, particularly by Bangladesh;

(b) the number of transmitters installed during this period in the bordering areas of Bangladesh;

(c) whether the Government are aware that as the maximum area of Karimganj District in Assam falls in Bangladesh border and it is most essential to instal AIR Station and Television Centre at Karimganj for combating the anti-India campaign by Bangladesh there; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government propose to take such steps to strengthen the AIR & Television network there?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) & (b) : A special package for expansion of AIR and Doordarshan services in Jammu & Kashmir and border districts of Punjab has been approved by the Government in July, 1999 at an outlay of Rs. 430 crores. Since June, 1998, three TV Transmitter projects in the districts bordering Bangladesh have been commissioned to provide coverage to the border areas of the country. In addition, 44 TV Transmitter projects including 13 projects in the districts bordering Bangladesh are presently under

implementation in the border districts of the country. In respect of AIR, 5 AIR Transmitters in the districts bordering Bangladesh have been commissioned since June, 1998. In addition, 24 AIR Transmitter projects including 9 Projects in the districts bordering Bangladesh are presently under various stages of implementation in the border districts of the country.

(c) & (d) : Presently large parts of Karimganj District receive Radio and TV

(DD-I) coverage from Transmitters located at Silchar. Metro Channel Services (DD-II) would also become available in parts of Karimganj District consequent upon commissioning of a High Power TV Transmitter presently under implementation at Silchar.