

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:567  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000  
QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON DOORDARSHAN  
DUMPA MARY VIJAYAKUMARI;VIJAY GOEL

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the very bad quality of telecast by Doordarshan vis-à-vis other telecasting channels of private companies, viz. Zee, Sony etc.;
- (b) whether dependence on cable operators for improved quality of telecast has resulted in erosion of telecasting ability of Doordarshan;
- (c) if so, details thereof; and
- (d) despite the use of satellite, the reasons of the low range and poor quality of our telecast and the efforts being made to improve the quality and range?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT

(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d): A statement is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 567 OR ANSWER ON 05.05.2000

(a): Doordarshan uses both the terrestrial and satellite modes of transmission and the signals emanating from the Doordarshan transmitters and satellite transponders are of the same quality as of the signals of other broadcasters. However, there could be some distortions at the television receivers end. For terrestrial signals this distortion can come from not using the proper antenna and for satellite signals the distortions are mostly introduced at the cable operator's end.

(b)&(c): Since Doordarshan has a large nation-wide terrestrial network covering nearly 87.9% of population, it is not dependent on cable operators for telecast/ distribution of its programmes, particularly in respect of its national channel i.e. DD-I. However, consumers having cable connections prefer to receive all the television channels through cable. In order to ensure that cable operators provide a good quality signal of DD channels, the Cable Television Network Amendment Rules 1999 makes it mandatory for cable operators to take signals of Doordarshan channels only from satellite, place them in the prime band and not transmit any channel in the same band in which DD transmits its channels terrestrially. However, it is reported that many cable operators are not meeting these requirements resulting into distorted signals of DD-I and DD-II.

(d): Range of terrestrial transmitters is not dependent on use of satellite as the latter is used only for purposes of their networking. DD has taken a number of steps to improve the quality of its signals. These include digital transmission of channels in satellite mode, replacement of low power transmitters by high power transmitters, expansion of network to provide better coverage to fringe and uncovered areas and campaign to educate cable operators and public about the provisions of the Cable TV Act and rules made thereunder. DD also proposes to set up a monitoring system to ensure compliance with the provisions of Cable TV Act and rules.