

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:527

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002

T. V. PROGRAMMES FOR REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

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

- (a) whether about 20 lakh people living in remote areas of the country do not get Doordarshan channels;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether this is due to lack of funds; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to provide sufficient funds/subsidy for this purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 527 REGARDING T. V. PROGRAMMES FOR REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS FOR ANSWER ON 2.5.2002.

(a) & (b): TV programmes of all the 22 channels of Doordarshan, in satellite mode, are available throughout the country and can be received by using appropriate dish antenna system or through cable network. Two channels viz. DD1 & DD2 are transmitted in terrestrial mode also. Population-wise coverage of DD1 & DD2 channels in terrestrial mode is about 90% and 36%, respectively and with the commissioning of on-going projects, this is expected to increase to about 91% & 46%, respectively.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Adequate funds have been provided for further expansion of coverage during 10th plan. Alternative technology options have also been included to provide coverage to hitherto uncovered areas.