

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:293  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000  
DOORDARSHAN COVERAGE  
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether the Government have any plan to ensure greater access of Doordarshan channels in all the parts of the country and abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the news collection of Doordarshan is very poor in some parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Doordarshan to increase better news coverage;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to set up more offices in distant areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (f): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.  
STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO IN PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 293  
ANSWER ON 11.08.2000.

(a) & (b): Expansion of the reach of Doordarshan, within the country as well as abroad, is a continuous process, the progress of which is dictated by availability of resources and technical feasibility considerations. At present, all the twenty one channels of Doordarshan are available throughout the country via satellite. These can be received with the help of appropriate dish antenna system or through Cable network. DD-India, the international channel of Doordarshan, is available in a large number of countries. Almost all the countries in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America are covered by DD-India.

The terrestrial network of Doordarshan is available to about 88.2% of the country's population. In order to further extend the coverage of Doordarshan's terrestrial network, 255 transmitter projects are at present under implementation. It is expected that when all these projects are complete, Doordarshan service will be available to around 93% of the country's population.

(c) & (d): Doordarshan has been facing some difficulties in covering news in the remote and inaccessible parts of the country. In order to ensure better news coverage on Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati proposes to utilize the services of its nationwide network of AIR correspondents. Efforts are also being made to engage more stringers and accredited agencies to cover important events/coverages, particularly in the remote and inaccessible areas of the country. There are 23 Earth Stations at various Doordarshan Kendras for receiving and sending news and other programmes instantly to other Kendras. All the Doordarshan Kendras have Electronic News Gathering Units for collection of news (with visuals) from various areas under the jurisdiction of respective Kendras. Besides, for instant dispatch of news coverage, Digital Satellite News Gathering Units, available with the Doordarshan Kendras at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad, are deployed to various areas where important events are required to be covered.

(e) & (f): Apart from the 255 transmitter projects mentioned above, 16 studios and 42 Maintenance Centres, some of which are in remote areas of the country, are currently under implementation.