

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2338
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
AIR CENTRES
Athawale Shri Ramdas;Mohale Shri Punnulal

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up All India Radio (AIR) centres particularly in the tribal districts;
- (b) if so, whether any surveys have been conducted or proposed to be conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) to (d): Yes Sir. While planning setting up of radio stations, A.I.R. is motivated by

- (i) coverage analysis (including feed-back reports);
- (ii) population density;
- (iii) people's representation; and
- (iv) availability of resources. During the Tenth Five Year Plan period, three radio stations viz.
 - (i) Himatnagar (Gujarat),
 - (ii) Saraipalli (Chhattisgarh), and
 - (iii) Mandla (Madhya Pradesh), have been commissioned in tribal areas.

Two more radio stations in the tribal districts of Soro (Orissa) and Dharmapuri (Tamil Nadu) are technically ready; but have not been commissioned due to non-sanction of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) staff. One radio station in the tribal district of Churachandpur in Manipur is also technically ready, but could not be commissioned as a decision about link language is yet to be taken by the State Government.

Besides, another forty-one Radio Stations spread-over in the tribal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been proposed during the 10th Plan.